

Hafa Adai!

Hyatt awaits final contract of lease renewal from DPL. **PAGE 3**
COFA citizens in the CNMI may now be eligible for Medicaid. **PAGE 6**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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BIBA PRIDE MONTH, MARIANAS!

Participants of yesterday's CNMI Pride Month proclamation signing at the Koblerville Gymnasium gather for a photo after the event. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Fr. Michael Linden of the Society of Jesus were the event's guests.

STORY ON PAGE 2

Story on Page 2

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:46pm, June 2, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **56%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	22,314
Fully Vaccinated:	20,001
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,878
Fully Vaccinated:	3,181
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	299

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,173	14	8,187
Recovered	7,983	3	7,986
Active	48	14	62
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	166,644		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	74		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

2,000-plus applicants flood Karidat's CDBG food pantry

» Further applications closed for now

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Just a little over 24 hours after opening its application period last June 1, the Community Development Block Grant food pantry of Karidat Social Services was forced to stop accepting new applications—at least for now—after being flooded with over 2,000 applications.

Over 2,000 applications have been submitted in-person and through email since Kari-

dat opened the application period at midnight on June 1, See **KARIDAT on Page 4**

WITH SOUDELOR, YUTU, COVID-19:

PSS: Increased anxiety, depression among students

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

After experiencing the triple calamities of super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic—which all seemed to have happened in quick succession—the Public School System is seeing increased anxiety and depression among students, including thinking of and even attempting suicide, accord-

ing to PSS associate commissioner for Student and Support Services Bonnie Pangelinan on Tuesday.

For special education, though, PSS Special Educa-

tion Program director Donna Flores is happy to disclose that they have realized some positive outcomes as far as distance learning is concerned.

See **PSS on Page 4**

More than 70% of NMC classes will be face-to-face starting Aug.

» 100% face-to-face no longer possible as many prefer online classes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Starting in the fall of 2021, which is in August, more than 70% of the Northern Marianas College's classes will already be face-to-face, but interim president Frankie Eliptico acknowledged yesterday that NMC will no longer attain 100% of that format.

See **NMC on Page 4**

July repatriation of IPI's PH workers 'likely'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Philippine contract workers "will likely be repatriated in July," according to a status report IPI submitted

to the U.S. District Court for the NMI last May 31.

According to IPI lawyer Michael W. Dotts in the status report, IPI was able to repatriate six Malaysian CWs in the time between the filings of the 19th and 20th reports and that two more

Malaysians will be repatriated in August. Further, Dotts says that IPI's Philippine CWs "will likely be repatriated in July." CW refers to the immigration visa given to foreign workers; it allows them to work in the CNMI.

See **JULY on Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Atkins Kroll Saipan donates \$1,000 to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

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ASIA

The Philippine president rejects full disclosure of details of his administration's anti-drug crackdown.

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ENVIRONMENT

Master navigator Lino Olopai tells the tale of the *tagafi* as the CNMI marks June as Ocean Month.

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Local

CNMI kicks off monthlong Pride celebrations



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second from left, signs at the Koblerville Gymnasium yesterday morning the proclamation that designates June as Pride Month. Others in photo are, from left, first lady Diann Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Fr. Michael Linden of the Society of Jesus.

JOSHUA SANTOS

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

In only the third time so far in its history, the Commonwealth is joining the rest of the world this year in celebrating June as Pride Month, with a proclamation signing yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium that kicks off a monthlong series of events that celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in the CNMI.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was joined by first lady Diann Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Fr. Michael Linden of the Society of Jesus in signing the proclamation document before members and supporters of Pride Marianas Youth and other members of the community. The theme of Pride Month this year is "Change the tide, show your pride." Up next for the monthlong celebration is a talk show with radio station KKMP today, June 3.

In his inspirational remarks, Dr. Bobby Cruz recounted some formative experiences in his past and his struggles during that time with his sexuality. "There was no positive LGBT representation for me to emulate, no counselor to help guide me through my trauma and unpack my feelings. ...In my mind, there was nothing," said Cruz.

With LGBTQ+ acceptance

slowly becoming the norm, Cruz said he has since risen above his trauma and come to terms with who he is. "We will replace smallness for openness, intolerance for humanity, and, most importantly, begin the work to uproot shame and plant pride in its place," he said.

In his closing remarks, Torres said that acceptance comes down to respect. "It's about respect. It's about respecting each other's decisions. ...If one of my kids [were] gay or lesbian, I would love them no less," said Torres.

Palacios shared that a Pacific Islands Conference of Leadership was taking place over Zoom at the same time as the proclamation, and that he "didn't hesitate to [choose to] be here." He shared that one of his siblings is gay, and it was through his family's protection and support that made understanding and acceptance come easy. "We will continue to advocate and help in every way we can to change the tide," said Palacios.

The Torres-Palacios administration took part in two firsts for the LGBT+ community in the CNMI, with Torres being the first CNMI governor to proclaim Pride Month back in 2016 and for holding the first virtual proclamation last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tsunami drill today at OES

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management will be conducting a tsunami preparedness exercise drill with the students and staff of Oleai Elementary School today, June 3, 2021, at 8:30am.

The students and staff of OES will be making their way from the elementary school through Texas Road on to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and up As Terlaje Hill to the Northern Marianas College campus.

Motorists are advised to exercise caution as the outer lane of Chalan Monsignor Road will be closed off from Oleai up to the NMC campus and

residents along Texas Road are advised to secure any loose pets for student and faculty safety.

The drill is being done in collaboration with the Public School System, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

HSEM would like to thank the community in advance for their patience as we work to prioritize student safety and emergency preparedness in the Marianas.

For any questions or concerns, contact the CNMI State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Police checkpoint on Saturday

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting a total of two separate Occupant Protection and Child Restraint Checkpoints on Saturday, June 5, 2021.

The first checkpoint will be along Beach Road, Susupe to Tun Thomas P. Sablan Road from 6pm to 8pm. The second checkpoint will be along Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, from 9pm to 11pm.

The purpose of these

scheduled checkpoints is to promote public safety while increasing the awareness of the dangers of not using a vehicle's occupant protection system as well as child restraints systems while driving on the island's roadways. Locations of these checkpoints were pre-determined based on the number of auto accidents, occupant protection, and child restraint system violations in these areas. (PR)

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Hyatt awaits final contract of lease renewal from DPL

By BEA CABRERA

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CORRESPONDENT

A month after the CNMI Department of Public Lands sent Hyatt Regency Saipan a draft agreement for the renewal of the hotel's land lease, there is still no official contract of lease that has been signed by the two parties—just months before the lease expires in December 2021.

"The news went out first, but we are still waiting for an official contract of the lease. ...Basically, there has been an overall agreement but we still have to see an official contract of lease, which the owner



Nishikawa

(Kobe Portopia Hotel Corp. which does business as Hyatt Regency Saipan) signs, followed by DPL and go for public posting for 15 days for public comment(s)," said Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa.

In spite of that, Nishikawa assured that it is business as usual at Hyatt, debunking talks that the hotel's food and beverage services will be closing temporarily effective July 1.

"We are not closing. Currently, Miyako is open for lunch and Kili Café [is open] for dinner with limited set menu. We will be starting buffet lunch and dinner style on certain days that will follow government regulations and protocols on COVID-19," he said.

As for renovations, Nishikawa said that is not happening yet. "Our rooms are open for guests...and we are ready to accept tourists anytime."

The draft lease agreement is for another 40-year land lease.

In an earlier interview, Nishikawa said that he hopes that the community wants to see the new Hyatt in the

event it gets its lease renewal. "Our vision is to remain in the CNMI and it is unbreakable. ...The management in Japan

is willing to continue Hyatt operations when we get the lease extension. ...The past months have been very diffi-

cult and this is the same with other hotels. I had a discussion with the owner and Hyatt whether we should close

or not because ceasing the operations of the hotel entails less expense than keeping it open. But we don't have the

heart to close the hotel and was told by the owner to do whatever we can do to serve the guests," he said.



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KBB: \$15,477



2018 MAZDA **MAZDA3** SPORT

SALE PRICE
\$16,995 | STK: 18HS879
10,678 MILES
KBB: \$19,402



2016 TOYOTA **PRIUS C**

• 48,814 MILES
• STK: 20DI34A
• KBB: \$16,585

SALE PRICE
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2018 HYUNDAI **TUCSON**

• 19,482 MILES
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• KBB: \$17,777

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\$16,995



2019 MITSUBISHI **OUTLANDER** SPORT 2WD

• 12,077 MILES
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• KBB: \$20,458

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2017 **MAZDA3** SPORT

• 38,494 MILES
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• KBB: \$17,146

SALE PRICE
\$13,995



2017 HYUNDAI **TUCSON** LTD AWD

• 24,118 MILES
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• KBB: \$18,424

SALE PRICE
\$17,995



2020 HYUNDAI **ELANTRA** SPORT

• 4,180 MILES
• STK: 20P307
• KBB: \$21,326

SALE PRICE
\$18,995



2016 HYUNDAI **VELOSTER**

• 39,217 MILES
• STK: 20H068-A
• KBB: \$15,830

SALE PRICE
\$13,995



2017 MAZDA **MAZDA3** TOURING H/B

• 21,120 MILES
• STK: 20D013A
• KBB: \$17,801

SALE PRICE
\$17,995



2018 HONDA **CIVIC EXT**

• 10,120 MILES
• STK: 18HS935
• KBB: \$22,425

SALE PRICE
\$19,995



2018 MAZDA **MAZDA3** SPORT

• 10,153 MILES
• STK: 18HS905
• KBB: \$19,496

SALE PRICE
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2018 KIA **OPTIMA** LX

• 10,367 MILES
• STK: 18HS952C
• KBB: \$19,930

SALE PRICE
\$17,995



2011 TOYOTA **4RUNNER**

• 77,762 MILES
• STK: 11P314
• KBB: \$21,336

SALE PRICE
\$19,995



2016 HYUNDAI **TUCSON** GL

• 47,963 MILES
• STK: M006A
• KBB: \$15,395

SALE PRICE
\$14,995



2018 NISSAN **ROGUE SP AWD**

• 30,612 MILES
• STK: 21H004A
• KBB: \$18,555

SALE PRICE
\$17,995



2019 MAZDA **CX-5** GT AWD

• 8,214 MILES
• STK: 19P299
• KBB: \$28,460

SALE PRICE
\$26,995



2017 HONDA **HRV** LX

• 39,686 MILES
• STK: 18P317A
• KBB: \$17,453

SALE PRICE
\$16,995



2015 TOYOTA **HIGHLANDER** LE

• 62,811 MILES
• STK: 5HS735A
• KBB: \$19,031

SALE PRICE
\$17,995



2019 TOYOTA **TACOMA** SR5 2WD

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• STK: 19P321
• KBB: \$34,648

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Minor found safe and unharmed

A boy who was reported missing last Tuesday, June 1, was found unharmed yesterday and has been returned to his family.

The Department of Public Safety

received a call on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at about 8:30pm about a missing child at a residence near Lower Miha in Garapan. The police report did not indicate the child's age.

Police who were dispatched to the scene met with the mother who stated that the child got in trouble at school earlier that day. Before the child's mother could talk to

him about the incident, the boy ran away from home. He was described as wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt with a hoodie, a pair of jeans, a pair of blue Nike shoes, and a red Jansport bag. The child's mother and neighbors went around Garapan in search of the child, to no avail, and

that's when then called for police assistance.

Yesterday, at about 9:39am, the child was found at a friend's home in the village of China Town. He was found well and unharmed. The child is now back with his family. (PR)

MTEC reconvenes, sets upcoming activities

The Marianas Tourism Education Council reconvened on May 27, 2021, setting activities for the coming year in support of its continuing goal of educating the community about the Mari-

anas' primary economic driver.

"Although many of our activities have been suspended for over a year due to COVID-19, MTEC is hitting the ground running in its planning for

the year ahead," said acting MTEC chair Vicky Benavente.

The Governor's Golf Classic benefiting MTEC will be held on Sept. 4, 2021, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

A meeting with MY WAVE Club advisers will be held early in the school year to acquaint them with MTEC and upcoming events.

Education outreach presentations to local schools will be conducted with 10th graders in the new school year, and MTEC's annual tourism summit for students will be scheduled as well. MTEC also anticipates to again make its annual scholarship for graduating high school seniors available next school year.

2022 will also mark the 20th anniversary of MTEC. MTEC was formed in 2002 to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the well-being of the people of The Marianas. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster commu-

nity understanding and support of the visitor industry; to educate the public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve, and promote the "Hafa Ada -Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community.

In addition to Benavente, MTEC board members include Priscilla M. Iakopo (Marianas Visitors Authority), Martin Duenas (MVA), Frankie Eliptico (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (Pacific Development Inc.), Catherine Perry (Integrity Communications), and Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort). (MTEC)



The Marianas Tourism Education Council board of directors convenes on May 27, 2021, at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose, Saipan. From left, MTEC secretary Martin Duenas, Naomi Nishimura, Catherine Perry, MTEC acting chair Vicky Benavente, Larry Lee, Glenn Policare, Priscilla M. Iakopo, Gordon Marciano, and Yunzi Zhang, representing Frankie Eliptico.

MTEC

KARIDAT

From Page 1

and the deluge of applications now requires Karidat staff's full attention to review and process.

To avoid any concerns or confusion, it was made clear in *Saipan Tribune's* interview with Karidat staff that the CDBG food pantry is separate from Karidat's already existing food pantry, which is still able to serve anyone seeking assistance. Karidat's pre-existing food pantry continues to serve hundreds of families a month and is kept open through food donations from the community and local businesses.

"We [are] really happy to see all

this positive response from the community. ...We anticipated a crowd. We anticipated a lot of applications to come in. We did not anticipate that we would get 2,000-plus applications," said a Karidat staff member who asked not to be named.

The staff member shared that resources are limited and that Karidat staff are all involved with the organization's many other offerings. To ensure that all applications are processed in a timely manner and that the eligible receive their food packages, the decision to temporarily close applications was made.

"The [CDBG food pantry] didn't replace any other current program we have. We can still give food through the [reception] window if

they have that need. ...The [CDBG food pantry] is in addition to what we have. We still have [the Karidat food pantry] going on, and we're still providing services," said the staff member.

According to Karidat's May 28 press release, the organization was granted \$405,268.50 by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A total of \$327,514.80 was allocated to fund the CDBG food pantry, with the remaining \$77,753.70 reserved for planning and administrative costs.

More information and updates on the CDBG and Karidat food pantries can be found on Karidat's website at karidat.com.

PSS

From Page 1

Pangelinan and Flores, along with Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada and other PSS officials, testified at a public hearing for PSS' budget request before the House of Representatives' Committee on Ways and Means.

With respect to vaccination rate for COVID-19, Ada testified that, according to their tally, 67% of PSS teachers and staff are now vaccinated.

Committee vice chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) later told *Saipan Tribune* that the PSS team presented many issues but the main factor they focused on is the timely allocation of the federal Educational Stabilization Funds that have filled major gaps in PSS funding.

Blanco said this source of funding, among other federal sources, should be able to carry out PSS programs and goals for this remaining fiscal year and fiscal year 2022.

When asked about PSS' other unmet needs, Ada said that PSS needs

12 more counselors on top of their full-time employee submission for fiscal year 2022.

In response to Rep. Leila Staffler's (D-Saipan) inquiry, Pangelinan said the increase in anxiety and depression, with suicide attempts, were mostly disproportionate with students who are LGBTQ. Pangelinan said they're also looking at students who were experiencing higher behavioral referrals through their discipline referral system.

"We have seeing this throughout the years and there has been a need for several years, but right now this school year is really hard," she said.

When asked if there are any positive takeaways that PSS learned from this pandemic, Flores said most of their students in the PSS Special Education Program have already been exposed to online interaction through their online therapy services "so it wasn't as big as a struggle as we anticipated for the students to be able to familiarize themselves with sitting in front of the keyboard or in front of the screen and learning."

Also, having the children learning

at home with their parents' involvement, was a big takeaway for PSS. "Because, of course, in our program, parent involvement is critical for the overall success of the student because we can only do so much at school and it takes a team effort—the parents to help at home as well," Flores said.

Flores said they were able to graduate 55 students from their special education program despite the pandemic. "We're able to boast that we were able to graduate students and they were able to meet their minimum graduation requirements, despite our situation. That's a big plus for us," she added.

On the vaccination issue, Ada said their goal is to increase the rate to 75% from the current 67%.

Ada said they don't have the numbers yet for students' vaccination as the program had just opened up.

Ada said Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna and Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Warren Villagomez have reached out to him to help with the vaccination campaign for high school students.

JULY

From Page 1

The May 31, 2021, filing is IPI's 20th status report, which is required of IPI as part of former U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Rene Alexander Acosta's closed case against IPI. Acosta and IPI agreed to an entry of consent judgment in April 2019. In addition to being ordered to regularly submit status reports, IPI

agreed to pay a total of \$3.36 million, which is composed of \$1.58 million in back wages, \$1.58 million in liquidated damages, and \$200,000 in civil penalties.

The report also shared that IPI's next payroll distribution will be on June 4 and IPI is "maintaining power and water at some housing as some CW employees remain in residence," and that construction work at the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan remains suspended.

NMC

From Page 1

Speaking about NMC's budget at a public hearing before the House of Representatives' Committee on Ways and Means, Eliptico said the 100% face-to-face modality is no longer feasible because they've learned during the pandemic that many students prefer online classes.

The interim president said these students are thriving and succeeding in an online environment because it afforded them the opportunity to continue their jobs and all the other obligations that they have to meet without having to attend classes in person.

"So we wanted to stress that we're not going back, the college is not going back to pre-pandemic levels. That world will no longer exist for us," Eliptico said.

He said their focus now is how the college is adapting—just like all the other colleges and universities in how they are using the pandemic to maximize learning and continue the integrity of the classes, even amid the pandemic and after the pandemic. "It's 'What did we learn in the pandemic, and how are we moving forward,'" he said.

In the meantime, Eliptico said, they still welcome students on campus as they're having face-to-face student activities. He said they are making sure, however, that they are enforcing COVID-19 restrictions, including asking students to stay home when they're sick, keeping their distance, using face masks on campus and many other improvements to the NMC facility.

Eliptico also stated that despite super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu and COVID-19, their enrollment numbers continue to be strong. "We do continue to have degree programs and bachelor's and associate's levels in various areas, including business management, nursing, business administration with various emphasis, including accounting, business management, computer application, and others in high demand here, including nursing," he said.

Eliptico said a number of graduates at the college continues to increase and that the latest figures that they have is approximately 250 students or 250 were degrees conferred. "So we remain strong," he said, noting that they have over 100% increase in enrollment from about 10 years ago.

He said more and more students are looking to NMC for their professional growth and development. In fact, despite the pandemic, typhoons, or no matter what the disaster is, they've been able to continue a strong enrollment, Eliptico said. He attributed this to their strong relationship with the Public School System and the expansion of programs at NMC.

Also, despite the pandemic, NMC did not cancel any programs. "We did not postpone any programs. We continued on an online environment and when it was safe to do so, we were starting to peel back some of the restrictions," he said.

The interim president said many of their classes are now using a face-to-face format.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the hearing yesterday afternoon, some NMC officials were still testifying.



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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 21 – 039

Re-Announcement

Opening Date: April 30, 2021 • Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Safety Compliance Technician
DEPARTMENT:	Tinian Administration
LOCATION:	Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non - Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Performs and assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations.
- Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed.
- Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions.
- Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents.
- Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations.
- Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and based on assignment, up to 2 years of related work experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- Hazmat and OSHA Certifications (Position may require)

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday through Friday (Except Legal Holidays), 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Information Meeting

WHO: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

WHAT: A presentation will be shown to provide an overview of the investigation process. The proposed No Action decision concluded that the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-8 metals do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. Additionally, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations in soil above applicable screening levels were successfully removed from the Hospital Dump Formerly Used Defense (FUDS) site. If after consideration of public comments, this recommendation is ultimately selected, no additional investigation or remediation will be performed and USACE will pursue project closeout. USACE representatives will be available during the meeting to receive your comments and to answer your questions regarding elements of the project.

WHEN: Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 5 p.m.

WHERE: Hyatt Regency, Royal Palm Avenue, Micro Beach Road – Giovanni's Room (located in restaurant), Saipan, CNMI

WHY: To engage public participation regarding the Proposed Plan for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001), located at Talofofo, Saipan.

HOW: To ensure that the community's concerns are addressed, a public comment period will run from June 1, 2021 - July 20, 2021. The Proposed Plan and Remedial Investigation Report will be available for public review beginning June 1, 2021 in the Administrative Record located at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Insatto Street, Capitol Hill Susupe, Saipan. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit any written comments regarding the project to:

Project Point of Contact:

Lori Wong

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-EFort Shafter, HI 96858-5440

COFA citizens in the CNMI may now avail of Medicaid

Citizens of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia who live in the CNMI may now be eligible for Medicaid, thanks to the passage last December of an omnibus bill that is now law.

In a news statement last Tuesday, the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency said that CNMI residents who are citizens of the Freely Associated States under the Compact of Free Association may now be eligible for Medicaid. This means citizens of the Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap).

FAS citizen residing in the CNMI who wish to enroll in Medicaid must meet the income and resource criteria.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Med-

icaid Agency or visit the office as soon as possible:

■ **SAIPAN:** 664-4880/82/86/87/88
(Capitol Hill Building # 1252)

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday - 7:30am to 1:00pm
(Closed on Fridays & Government Holidays)

■ **TINIAN:** 433-9233/263/333

(Tinian Health Center)
Office Hours: Monday to Friday - 7:30am to 4:30pm
(Closed on Government Holidays)

■ **ROTA:** 532-9641/62/63 ext. 264

(Rota Health Center)

Office Hours: Monday to Friday - 7:30am to 4:30pm
(Closed on Government Holidays)

On Dec. 21, 2020, the U.S. Congress passed the omnibus

COVID relief bill that corrected a nearly 25-year error that unjustly excluded Compact of the Freely Associated citizens residing in the United States or District of Columbia and U.S. territories from Medicaid. The omnibus bill was signed by President Trump on Dec. 28, 2020 and is now law. The new law corrects the error in the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, commonly referred to as welfare reform, which changed the categories of persons eligible for certain federal safety-net programs including Medicaid.

On March 26, 2021, Gov. Ralph DLF Torres elected and certified the State Plan Amendment to cover FAS citizens residing in the CNMI. **(PR)**

Babauta to speak at Capitol Hill Ocean Week

Friends of the Mariana Trench said yesterday that board chair and Precinct 4 Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) will be representing the CNMI as a speaker for Capitol Hill Ocean Week in Washington, D.C.

"We are part of the Pacific [and therefore in] any conversations happening around ocean health, ocean sustainability, ocean recovery," said Babauta, "These are conversations we really need to be a part of because we have such an intimate connection with the ocean."

CHOW is an annual conference in Washington, D.C. that has been convening members of Congress, administration

officials, state and local governments, scientists, scholars, business executives, nonprofit leaders, and the public for an annual dialogue on ocean science, policy, and conservation for the past 20 years.

According to organizers, "CHOW 2021 will focus on building a more racially equitable and just movement for our ocean and Great Lakes. ...

This year's conference is an opportunity to examine how systemic racism negatively impacts conservation, science, and policy, and how strengthening justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion will improve the sustainability of our ocean, coasts, Great

Lakes, and the communities that depend on them."

Babauta will represent the CNMI on a panel titled "Strengthening Resource and Climate Change Engagement in the U.S. Territories." Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan will also offer opening remarks at this year's virtual session.

"I am very excited about the invitation from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation," Babauta said about the event. "I am looking forward to engaging in dialogue about how we can better protect our oceans and really share our experience and our relationship with the ocean here in the CNMI."

The panel will also feature representatives from the other U.S. territories: Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. **(PR)**



Babauta

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF-098
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 14, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 50105, SAIPAN, MP 96951
Phone: (1-670) 227-6500/1 Fax: (1-670) 224-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@cpa.com Website: www.cnmjports.com

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Friday, June 4, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes (May 27, 2021)
- PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
- SPECIAL MEETING ITEM:**
 - Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Lease (Power Plant 3)
- EXECUTIVE SESSION (If needed)**
- MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- ADJOURNMENT**

Tune in online as we stream live on the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Facebook page. Written testimony on the agenda items must be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@cpa.com. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman,
Board of Directors

June 2, 2021

Engineer to join new office to handle nearly \$1B worth of projects

» **Local scholarship recipients urged to apply for positions**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that an engineer has already been hired for the Infrastructure and Recovery Program, the newly created office that will handle nearly a billion dollars' worth of projects in the CNMI.



Torres

In his answer to a request for an update on the Infrastructure and Recovery Program during a radio news briefing, Torres also disclosed that they are bringing back local scholarship recipients in technical professions who are in the U.S. mainland to work with the new office.

The governor said they're getting an office space for IRP, which is opening up soon.

He said their first engineer will start to work this June 7 or 8.

No other information were provided about the engineer.

Jury trial set for alleged drug dealer

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The jury trial for an alleged meth dealer is scheduled for Aug. 3 in the U.S. District Court for the NMI. Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the trial date on June 1.

Eugene Ka Lok Wong is in court on one count of "possession with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine and one count of attempt to possess with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine."

According to previous court records, an indictment against Wong was filed at the district court last May 17 and Wong was summoned to court on June 1.

As of Tuesday, it could not be officially verified whether there is any correlation between the case of Wong and that of Dwight Lee DLG Aldan, who was also indicted on May 17 and is also in court on one count of possession with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine.

Wong is represented in this case by lawyer Mark B. Hanson. The U.S. government is represented by Albert S. Flores Jr.

Torres said he has been working with the scholarship program for their recipients to come back to Saipan and work on those needed technical professions.

The governor said it's

an open invitation to those that fall into the category of engineers, biology, environmental planner, archaeologist, lawyers, and fish and wildlife.

"So there are different po-

sitions that are needed. And I hope that we can fill these positions in the next month or so," Torres said.

The governor appointed former Department of Public Lands secretary Marianne

Concepcion-Teregeyo to be the IRP coordinator.

He earlier stated that the IRP will assist the Disaster Relief-Public Assistance and hazard mitigation projects and will move forward

projects such as with the Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and some road projects.

Pajarillaga leads GCA's Class of 2021 graduates

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy returned to the traditional graduation ceremony last Friday, honoring the 20 graduates of the Class of 2021 at the GCA Auditorium.

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga led the Class of 2021 graduates as he was named valedictorian, while Na Lee and Julie Quan were the co-salutatorians of the group. Third honor Anna Camille Nunez, fourth honor Erin Park, and fifth honor Aika Watanabe rounded out the graduating class' honor roll.

Completing GCA's Class of 2021 graduates are Sebastian Camacho, Justin Del Ro-



ELIJAH JOSHUA PAJARILLAGA
Valedictorian



NA LEE
Salutatorian



JULIE QUAN
Salutatorian

sario, Jasmin Frink, Tae Won Go, Gayeon Kim, William Kim, Claire Angela Marzan, Eugene Park, Ji Seung Park, Yehwan Rhyoo, Jeongmin Seo, Devan Yamagishi, and Jun You. Julie Harris is the class adviser.

In his valedictory address, Pajarillaga commended his fellow graduates not only for

achieving a milestone, but also for showing resilience and strength and standing their ground when things got tough. The Wesleyan University-bound Pajarillaga noted how the Class of 2021 lived through two super typhoons and the COVID-19 pandemic, which made their last two years in high school more

challenging as they had to do online classes and observed safety precautions. Pajarillaga thanked everyone who helped them through these hurdles so they could reach their goals.

"The achievements don't matter nearly as much as the people standing beside you as you succeed. The diploma, the certificates, the awards, the letters—all of it matters less in comparison to the people who have made such an accomplishment possible. So, to those of you that make life possible, you add moments, meaning, life, love, community, companionship, and so much more to our stories. So, thank you," Pajarillaga said.

GCA handed out three new awards in last weekend's graduation ceremony, which

marked the return of the traditional rites for seniors after the Eagles implemented a drive-thru ceremony last year due to the pandemic. Lee was awarded the Outstanding Female Graduate plaque courtesy of the Office of the Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor, while Pajarilla and GCA National Honor Society vice president Marzan took the Governor and Lt. Governor's Leadership awards, respectively. Two other major awards were presented, with Nunez named as Eagle Awardee and Mariella Dilse winning the Eagle Runner-Up, while GCA also handed out numerous academic, athletic, and distinguished Christian student awards.

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How Biden's approach to the Mideast conflict was effective

As rockets and bombs flew between Israel and Gaza, Joe Biden's tactics in handling a major foreign policy crisis drew criticism from both sides of the American political spectrum.

Critics on the right demanded the president voice support for Israel and its right to self-defense. Critics on the left demanded Mr. Biden stand up for the right of Palestinians to live in peace in their own unoccupied territory.

For 11 deadly days, Biden was the focus of fierce condemnation as the violence claimed hundreds of lives, including at least 60 children in Gaza. Thousands of people were displaced and hundreds of buildings were reduced to rubble.

Publicly, the president said little, but when his administration did speak, it did so in measured tones, defying pressure from both the left and right for tough talk or unbending demands for a cease-fire.

Behind the scenes, Biden was drawing on his decades of geopolitical experience and his long-cultivated relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to effect an end to the bloodshed. He did it in his own way.

While Biden and his team were making tempered public statements, the president spent days on the phone with Netanyahu, gradually ratcheting up the pressure. What did Israel aim to accomplish with the bombings? At what point could Israel say those objectives had been met and, therefore, agree to a cease-fire?

Combined with pressure from other international players—including Egypt, which brokered the cease-fire deal—Biden's strategy quietly paid off. This tactic of resisting calls for fiery public rhetoric while quietly leveraging personal relationships to push an ally toward the desired outcome behind the scenes has served well both the world and American foreign policy. It can be a step toward reestablishing the United States as a reliable broker for peace rather than an unpredictable player on the geopolitical scene.

Achieving lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians will require much more than a cease-fire, but no permanent peace will be brokered in the midst of bombs and rockets flying. A long-term solution has been a challenge that has eluded American presidents of both parties for decades. Biden's diplomatic tactics in recent weeks have not solved the problem, but they have been successful at helping to move the process in the right direction.



(c) 2021 the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WHEN IT COMES TO THE
ORIGINS OF COVID-19
VIRUS...



WHEN IT COMES TO THE
ORIGINS OF THE CAPITOL
RIOT...



The world should learn from India's COVID-19 cataclysm

In cities at least, India's nightmarish second wave of COVID-19 finally seems to be ebbing. Delhi has brought its test positivity rate below 2% for the first time in two months. The pandemic's scars won't be easily erased, however—and they should be a warning to other developing nations. Those countries must learn from India's experience if they don't want to repeat it.

The first and most obvious lesson is to avoid overconfidence. A relatively small change in how transmissible the novel coronavirus is can have large, non-linear effects on how fast it spreads. That means strategies that kept the pandemic at bay in 2020 won't necessarily work in 2021. As new variants emerge, health authorities might need to lock down more firmly and in a more targeted fashion to remain safe.

To do so, they'll also need to test more widely and perform more genomic sequencing so that they can track which variants are spreading in the population and where. This won't be easy. Even India, with an extensive scientific establishment, ranks 102nd in the world in the proportion of reported cases sequenced. Other emerging nations will struggle even more.

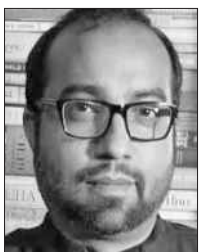
Richer nations should help. As a recent paper in *Science* pointed out, there are significant legal barriers to sharing of samples and data internationally. These need to be addressed so virus samples can move across borders quickly. Countries such as the U.K. that have built vast genome sequencing capacity will have to dedicate some of it to tracking samples from other parts of the world.

Emerging nations also need to learn the right lessons about limited health care capacity. The tragic scramble in cities such as Delhi for hospital beds, oxygen cylinders and medicines need not be replicated elsewhere. Indian states that established triage systems—telling those with symptoms whether they should go to a hospital or a care center, and which ones had beds free—managed the pressure on their creaky public health machinery better than others. Local authorities should make plans to set up similar systems in their countries, including by phone and online.

Doctors now have a wealth of data about which therapeutic treatments are most effective and which shouldn't be tried. Patients' families spent sleepless nights trying to get hold of convalescent plasma or drugs such as remdesivir before the Indian health establishment eventually admitted they were largely inef-

By **MIHIR SHARMA**
Bloomberg Opinion

Mihir Swarup Sharma is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi and head of its Economy and Growth Programme. He is the author of *Restart: The Last Chance for the Indian Economy*, and co-editor of *What the Economy Needs Now*.



fective and dropped them from treatment protocols. High-flow oxygen therapy was overused, leading not just to a shortage of medical oxygen but to some extremely nasty additional diseases.

Similarly, other governments know now that when the curve starts steepening, a new variant is detected or test positivity rises above danger levels, they should swiftly establish a centralized task force to allocate hospital resources and prescribe the right therapies.

Finally, and most importantly, all nations should now understand that vaccines work and that interfering with their supply is dangerous. The Indian government has argued that "if just one country shuts down raw material production, the entire supply chain breaks down." Even the locally made Covaxin vaccine from Bharat Biotech International Ltd. uses 360 ingredients from 10 countries—200 of them from the U.S. Countries such as the U.S. and U.K., which have subverted supply chains to prioritize their own needs, have a lot to answer for.

Meanwhile, Indian manufacturers' shift to supplying huge domestic needs first has meant that vulnerable countries in the rest of the emerging world are waiting too long for their shots. International cooperation over the next weeks and months must focus on ensuring that the vaccine supply chain is repaired, export bans end, more manufacturing capacity is created and the existing stock of vaccines is shared more equitably.

What happened in India could happen anywhere. But it need not if India's government, its peers in the emerging world and the world's richer nations learn the right lessons, work together—and show a little humility about this awful disease.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Shh. Congress is working

The news from Washington last week, as usual, was grim. Senate Republicans blocked legislation to create a bipartisan commission to investigate the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. Bipartisan talks over President Joe Biden's infrastructure proposals are dragging out. Senators negotiating a police reform bill missed their deadline.

It's disappointing to progressives who want to see the government get things done, and to moderates who were hoping a Biden White House would successfully lower the temperature of American politics after the zany Trump years. Even conservatives, who are largely responsible for the gridlock, profess to be disappointed.

I have good news for everyone. This image of a hopelessly broken American political system is basically false. What I call the Secret Congress is working away on legislation that flourishes in the shadows like a fern, avoiding the polarization and zero-sum thinking that engulfs any high-profile political fight.

Consider the Endless Frontier Act, which is expected to pass the Senate with a large bipartisan majority. This bill never led the front page of *The New York Times*, was never the lead item in *Politico's* Playbook, never topped the hour on cable news. It attracted interest in only the most obscure corners of my Twitter feed.

What is it? A major boost in U.S. science funding, including \$12.4 billion extra to the National Science Foundation over the next five years, \$17.5 billion in new funding for DARPA, \$17 billion to the Department of Energy and its various national labs, \$10 billion to the Commerce Department to create new regional tech hubs, and \$10 billion to NASA for a Human Landing System program. The headline feature is \$26.5 billion to stand up a new Technology Directorate at the NSF to make grants in areas that are considered national priorities, such as artificial intelligence.

One reason you haven't heard that much excitement about the bill is that it represents a significant diminishment of its sponsors' original aspirations. Sen. Todd Young, a Republican from Indiana, originally wanted \$100 billion for a technology directorate alone, with a mission and structure distinct from the existing NSF. Young successfully sold Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on the vision, and hopes were high that they could get it done. Instead, Congress got awfully parochial, as it is wont to do, and various members hacked away at the new directorate in favor of boosting funding for various existing science and research agencies that they like.

To my Niskanen Center colleague Samuel Hammond, this is "How Congress Ruined the Endless Frontier Act." He's not wrong that they made it worse.

But from another point of view, the important thing is that

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Happy Pride Month

Pride Month is a time for us to get together and celebrate how far we've come. It is a time for us to recommit to the hard work that still must be done to achieve equality. This month, we take the time to reflect on the progress we've made while celebrating those who have made this possible. Since Stonewall, we have fought hard to give our community the right to marry, to start families, fight discrimination and hate speech and hate crimes and allow queer people to simply exist.

Even though we've come such a long way, realistically we have a long way to go. People still suffer from systemic and institutionalized discrimination, bullying, violence, abuse and hatred. We must take every opportunity to amplify the voices that urgently need our support, especially our black, brown, Asian and Pacific Islander, indigenous, and transgender communities.

It is to those who are suffering in silence, most importantly our youth, that I dedicate Pride Month to. May it serve as a beacon of hope that, one day very soon, we will live in a society where one can simply exist, free from labels, discrimination, suffering and hatred.

Biba Pride Month Marianas!

Tyra Sablan

Founder, T-Project

they will (almost certainly) pass it. This is how Congress, at least the sepia-tinted version that people express nostalgia for, is supposed to work: operating through regular order with committees and amendments rather than leadership jamming things through. It takes bold ideas and it sands them down to address the often picayune concerns of members.

There are lots of other ways a national legislature could be designed. But this is the way America's is designed, and the Endless Frontier Act is one of its success stories.

What's particularly interesting is that this is happening not despite the fact that it's under the radar, but because it's under the radar. The Biden administration supports the law, but the president didn't mention it in his address to Congress last month and the administration hasn't done showy briefings with reporters.

Since it's not Biden-branded, its passage won't be covered as a "major win for the Biden White House." And because it's not a "win" for Biden, it won't be a "loss" for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, whose members have been actively involved in writing and amending the bill.

There are other bills that the "Secret Congress" is working on. While partisan bickering continues over the meaning of "infrastructure" as defined in Biden's American Jobs Plan, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee unanimously approved the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act last week.

A "surface transportation reauthorization act" is what's known in English as an infrastructure bill. It's a 34% increase in spending relative to the prior surface transportation bill, and while that's smaller and more tilted toward roads (vs. transit) than what Biden proposed, it's still a lot of money. It also in-

Texas governor was right about reopening, masks. Public health scolds should apologize

FORT WORTH, Texas—My parents, visiting from the East Coast, were surprised (but not so disappointed) to arrive in Texas and find so many people not wearing masks and so few businesses requiring them.

They were less surprised to learn that despite nearly three months of living without state-mandated pandemic restrictions, the COVID-19 caseload is still receding. Texas never experienced the massive spike in infections and deaths that Dr. Anthony Fauci predicted and that President Joe Biden insisted would be the cost of such "Neanderthal thinking."

Indeed, Texas reported zero COVID deaths on May 16, and on Thursday, the lowest number of hospitalizations from the virus since the first week of June 2020, quite a victory for a state that's home to some 30 million people.

(According to the latest data from *The New York Times*, Pennsylvania, my parents' home, reported 66 deaths on May 16. And the state's mask mandate is still in place.)

Maybe Abbott was lucky.

Or, given what we are learning about COVID mandates' inconsistent outcomes, maybe he was right.

Whatever the case, he deserves an apology.

It might be edifying to have the president and the nation's preeminent infectious disease expert admit not just that Texas' successful reopening was "confusing," as Fauci begrudgingly allowed, but that their verbal assaults on its governor's decision proved to be totally wrong. But the lost opportunity to say "I told you so" isn't the great cost here.

The real loss is in public trust of institutions and leaders, beginning with the public health establishment.

In fairness, public trust began eroding long before national leaders began pillorying Texas for allowing its residents to decide for themselves when and if to go maskless.

From the earliest days of the pandemic, health and political officials (because sometimes the two converge) have squandered public confidence by giving them incomplete and sometimes completely inaccurate information.

No one should forget how, early on, Fauci and other health experts, spent weeks telling us that masks were useless, not because that's what they believed, but because they wanted to be sure there were enough available for medical personnel.

Months later, when masks were plentiful, Fauci began recom-

By MATTHEW YGLESIAS

Bloomberg Opinion

Matthew Yglesias writes the Slow Boring blog and newsletter. A co-founder of Vox and a former columnist for Slate, he is also host of The Weeds podcast and is the author, most recently, of One Billion Americans.



cludes signature liberal priorities on things like electric-vehicle charging and road safety, plus a Reducing Carbon Emissions from Transportation grant program.

If this were announced as a deal between Biden and Republicans, the GOP members would be denounced for boosting an illegitimate president and Biden would be criticized for failing to hold the line on key progressive ideas. Instead, Shelly Moore Capito of West Virginia and Tom Carper of Delaware worked out a deal to little fanfare—and it just might happen.

At the very least, it stands a better chance of passage than Biden's American Jobs Plan. In fact, the unheralded infrastructure bill includes some features that are also in the Jobs Plan, as does the Endless Frontier Act. By taking them out of the hyperpartisan context of a presidential proposal, they can garner more cross-party support.

That might not please partisans. But it should satisfy anyone who comes to Washington hoping to pass laws that make people's lives better in tangible ways.

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.



mending "double masking" and scolding those who remained skeptical of their efficacy. I can't imagine why they would be.

More recently, Centers for Disease Control Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, testifying before the Senate, emotionally defended her agency's guidance for summer camps (which includes almost universal outdoor masking) using a wildly inaccurate description of the frequency with which COVID is spread outdoors. She referred to a single study that said "less than 10 percent" of transmissions occurred outdoors.

One of the study's authors quickly clarified that the likelihood of outdoor transmission is "still substantially less than 1 percent." Yet with the school year about to end, the CDC's camp guidance still requires masks for unvaccinated campers, most of whom aren't even eligible for the shots.

And while the origins of COVID remain unknown, detailed reporting that suggested a possible lab mistake in China was for months ignored or besmirched as racist and absurd by public health officials (among others). The only apparent reason is that the origin story was associated with Donald Trump, who admittedly isn't the soul of credibility.

But a renewed interest in the lab leak theory is finally so prominent (and distanced enough from the Trump era) that Biden has ordered his administration to further investigate.

In fairness, every public-policy maker during the pandemic deserves a modicum of grace, especially for decisions made early on when so much was unknown.

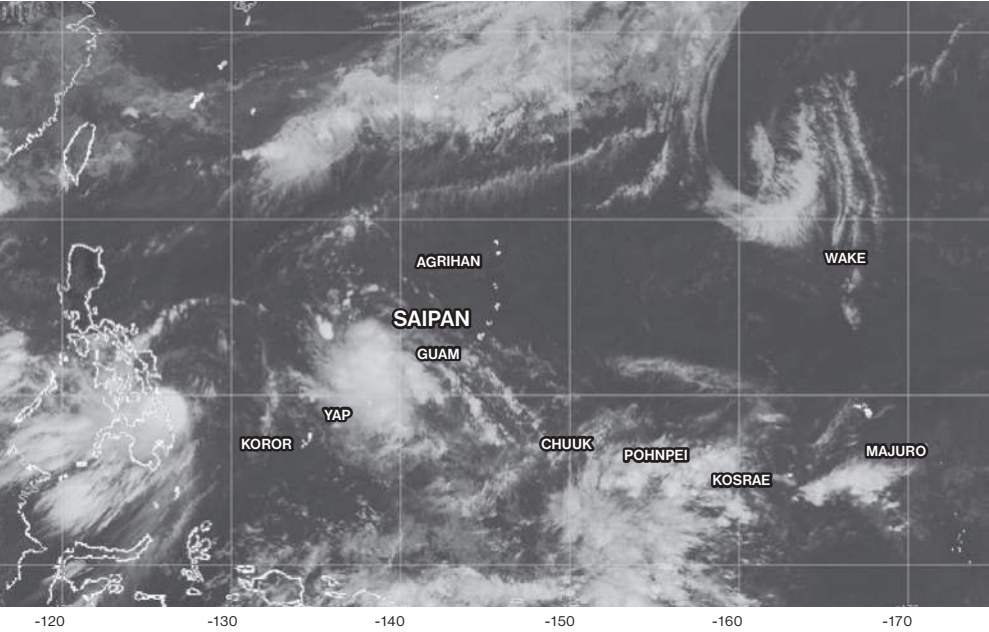
But at this stage, our leaders know a lot about what will serve the public good and what further erodes the public trust.

Admitting when they have erred or miscalculated would help to start rebuilding that trust.

Apologizing to Abbott would be a good place to start.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:47 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows mostly clear skies and quiet conditions across much of the Marianas. Buoys show seas between 3 and 4 feet across the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Sunny	88 78	°F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 77	°F
Yap	Thunderstorms	87 74	°F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 81	°F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 79	°F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 80	°F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 80	°F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:00 AM	1:00 PM	-
Friday	1:37 AM	1:48 PM	-
Saturday	2:12 AM	2:35 PM	-
Sunday	2:47 AM	3:21 PM	-
Monday	3:22 AM	4:09 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	60 52	°F
Beijing	Rain	85 75	°F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	85 80	°F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	83 73	°F
London	Partly cloudy	76 56	°F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	74 61	°F
Manila	Thunderstorms	88 79	°F
Melbourne	Mostly sunny	57 38	°F
Miami	Thunderstorms	86 78	°F
New York	Sunny	77 63	°F
Osaka	Sunny	79 60	°F
Paris	Thunderstorms	82 60	°F
Pusan	Sunny	82 57	°F
Rome	Mostly sunny	85 59	°F
Salem	Partly cloudy	68 52	°F
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	63 52	°F
Seoul	Sunny	80 57	°F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	84 61	°F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	82 65	°F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:07 AM	High Tide	2.00	
9:32 AM	Low Tide	1.07	
2:11 PM	High Tide	1.50	
8:41 PM	Low Tide	0.55	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5	
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>									

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021									
SAIPAN TO ROTA					1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily		1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily		1205	11:00	11:15	Daily	
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri		1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily		1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
ROTA TO SAIPAN					1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily		1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily		1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri		1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily		TINIAN TO SAIPAN				
ROTA TO GUAM					FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable		2102	8:30	8:45	Daily	
GUAM TO ROTA					2103	9:30	9:45	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2104	10:30	10:45	Daily	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable		2105	11:30	11:45	Daily	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable		2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	
					2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	
					2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	
					2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	
					2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable	

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Business

OPEC to boost oil output as economies recover, prices rise

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The OPEC oil cartel and allied producing countries plan to restore 2.1 million barrels per day of crude production, balancing fears that COVID-19 outbreaks in some countries will sap demand against surging energy needs in recovering economies.

Energy ministers made the decision during an online meeting Tuesday.

Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said recent market developments proved the agreement to gradually increase production, made in April and reconfirmed Tuesday, was “the right deci-

sion.” There are still “clouds on the horizon” regarding the recovery and demand for energy, he said.

The cartel decided to stay the course decided at earlier meetings to raise production by 2.1 million barrels per day from May to July. The group plans to add back 350,000 barrels per day in June and 440,000 barrels per day in July. Saudi Arabia is also gradually adding back 1 million barrels in voluntary cuts it made above and beyond its group commitment.

The combined OPEC Plus grouping of members led by Saudi Arabia and non-



AP
In this May 20, 2021 photo, a fuel truck driver checks the gasoline tank level at a United Oil gas station in Sunset Blvd., in Los Angeles.

members, chief among them Russia, is facing concerns renewed COVID-19 outbreaks in countries such as India, a major oil consumer, will hurt global demand and weigh on prices. Oil producing countries made drastic cuts to support prices during the worst of the pandemic slowdown in 2020 and must now judge how much additional oil the market needs as producers slowly add more production.

But prices have recovered, closing at multi-year highs on Tuesday, and the recoveries in the US, Europe and Asia are expected to drive energy demand higher in the second

half of the year as people travel more and use more fuel. The U.S. driving season began over Memorial Day weekend and increasing numbers of Americans have been vaccinated, leaving people feeling freer to travel and take longer trips by car.

On Tuesday the price of benchmark U.S. crude rose 2% to \$67.72 per barrel after jumping nearly 4%. Brent crude, the European standard, traded 2.7% higher at \$71.17 but closed at \$70.25 per barrel. The prices were the highest in two years for Brent crude and in nearly three years for U.S. crude.

Atkins Kroll donates to Summer Reading Program

Atkins Kroll Saipan and the company's Community Matters program donated \$1,000 to representatives of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in the Toyota

showroom. The donation will support the 2021 Summer Reading Program's themed “Tails and Tales.” “Today's readers may be tomorrow's leaders,” said Joel Lesh, AK Saipan vice president and general manager. “We hope that our contribution will help children read more over the summer and build healthy reading habits,” added Lesh.

“The JKPL 2021 Summer Reading program will provide weekly prizes for all children who submit their completed weekly activities,” said Erlina Naputi, JKPL library director. “Library officials will also award prizes for the most



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Atkins Kroll Saipan Sales manager Kevin Barnes, eighth from left, poses with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library director Erlinda Naputi, ninth from left, along with AK and JKPL staff during the turnover ceremony of a \$1,000 check that will support the library's 2021 Summer Reading Program's themed “Tails and Tales.”

books read; prizes for teens for fiction writing; raffle prizes;

and so much more,” said Beth Demapan, JKPL Technical

Services Librarian.

Community Matters is At-

kins Kroll's community care program. Its purpose is to

contribute value and support where possible to non-profit organizations or endeavors in their charitable or community pursuit to help make the CNMI a better place to live, work, and play. Atkins Kroll will accept nominations for its next \$1,000 donation from non-profit organizations and other community endeavors.

For more information contact Trina Cruz at trina.cruz@akguam.com or (671) 648-8402

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent a Car, and AC Delco automotive brands. (PR)

Brent Butler named Nanbo Insurance president

HAGÄTÑA, Guam—Nanbo Insurance Underwriters announced the promotion of Brent Butler as NANBO's new [resident. Butler previously served as the company's general manager for the past four years.

At its annual board meeting held on May 13, the NANBO Guam, Ltd.'s board of directors appointed Butler as NANBO's third president in the company's 53 years on Guam. Butler officially stepped into his new role last June 1.

NANBO chair P. Sonny Ada stated, “NANBO's board of directors is proud to an-

nounce Brent Butler as NANBO's president. We are appreciative of Brent's hard work and dedication throughout his years at NANBO, and his strong leadership these past four years has helped to position NANBO as a customer-centered insurance company that cares for its community and environment.”

“I am humbled and grateful to serve NANBO and its private and commercial customers in this new role,” Butler said. “This past year,

our team worked together to find ways that we can better service our customers. We are headed toward our greatest mission yet — to do our part to support the reopening of the economy and our customers as they rebuild financially.”

Additionally, Butler looks forward to introducing more improvements that ultimately benefit NANBO's customers. The company announced in February its enhanced touchless and online service channels

designed to keep customers safe. NANBO has also placed greater effort on adopting more sustainable practices, such as offering incentives for hybrid and electric car owners. NANBO will be offering new solar incentives for homeowners this year.

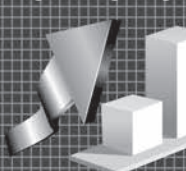
Before joining NANBO in 2009, Butler worked as an auditor for nine years at Ernst & Young, LLP. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in business administration, with an emphasis in accounting, from San Francisco State University. Throughout his career, Butler has attained the following professional designations: Certified Public Accountant

(CPA), Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU), and Associate in Fidelity & Surety Bonding (AFSB). An accomplished and competitive athlete, Butler is a father of four and has been married to his wife, Zhen, for 15 years.

Nanbo Insurance Underwriters has been serving Guam for more than 50 years by providing reliable and affordable home, auto, motorcycle, and business insurance. Nanbo Guam Ltd. was established in 1968 jointly by the Pete Ada and Eddie Terlaje families of Guam, J.C. Tenoerio Enterprises of Saipan, and Nanyo Boeki Kaisha of Japan. Nanbo Insurance Underwrit-

ers was established in 1969 and currently serves as general agent for Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited and Pacific Guardian Life Insurance Company. Nanbo was named Guam Business Hall of Fame-2018 Business Laureate by the Guam Chamber of Commerce for its leadership in the insurance industry and its contributions to the community. NANBO is committed to providing residents and businesses on Guam with exceptional Hafa Adai customer service. NANBO is located in the Nanbo Guahan Building at 250 Route 4 in Hagåtña. For more information, visit nanbo.com or call 671-477-9754. (PR)

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

S&P

4,199.25

+0.75

+0.02%

DOW

34,557.00

+7.00

+0.02%

NASDAQ

13,650.00

+1.25

+0.01%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar
British Pound
Canadian Dollar
Chinese Yuan
Euro

1.29
0.7068
1.21
6.38
0.8188

Hong Kong Dollar
Indian Rupee
Japanese Yen
Malaysian Ringgit
New Zealand Dollar
Philippine Peso

7.76
72.86
109.47
4.13
1.38
47.01

Russian Ruble
Singapore Dollar
South Korean Won
Swiss Franc
Taiwan Dollar
Thailand Baht

72.76
1.32
1,108.56
0.897
27.58
31.17

Nation

Pelosi rules out having Biden create Jan. 6 commission



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., talks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, May 19, 2021, about legislation to create an independent, bipartisan commission to investigate the Jan. 6 attack on the United States Capitol Complex.

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is ruling out a presidential commission to study the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol, telling House Democrats on Tuesday that having President Joe Biden appoint a panel is unworkable even after the Senate blocked an independent probe last week.

Pelosi laid out possible next steps after Friday's Senate vote, in which Senate Republicans blocked legislation to create an independent, bipartisan panel to investigate the siege by former President Donald Trump's supporters. She proposed four options for an investigation of the attack, according to a person on the private Democratic caucus call who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations.

The first option, Pelosi said, is to give the Senate another chance to vote on the commission. Six Republicans voted with Democrats to move forward with the bill, and a seventh missed the vote but said he would have backed it. That means Democrats would only need support from three additional Republicans to reach the 60 votes needed for passage. The commission would be modeled after a highly respected panel that investigated the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The other options involve the House investigating the attack, meaning the probes would be inherently partisan. Pelosi suggested that she could appoint a new select committee to investigate the siege or give the responsibility to a single committee, like the House Homeland Security panel, which wrote the original bipartisan bill to create

the commission. Alternately, Pelosi said committees could simply push ahead with their own investigations that are already underway.

But the speaker said she believed a commission appointed by Biden—an idea pitched by some in her caucus after Friday's Senate vote—was “not a workable idea in this circumstance” because Congress would still need to approve money and subpoena authority for the panel.

Pelosi's comments come as members of both parties have pushed for a deep dive into the insurrection, which was designed to interrupt the presidential electoral count and was the worst attack on Congress in two centuries. Four rioters died in the attack, including a woman who was shot by police as she tried to break into the House chamber while lawmakers were still inside. The rioters brutally beat police and broke in through windows and doors as they hunted for lawmakers and called for Trump's defeat to be overturned.

The White House has not yet said whether Biden would try to appoint a commission without Congress. On Friday, White House deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters that “the president has been clear that the shameful events of Jan. 6 need to be independently and fully investigated” and that he remains committed to that.

“We will continue to work with Congress to find a path forward to ensure that happens,” she said.

After the Senate vote, some Democrats urged Biden to move on his own.

“In light of the GOP's cowardly filibuster of a bipartisan

January 6th commission, I urge President Biden to form and appoint a Presidential Commission to fully investigate the insurrection at the United States Capitol, to identify the individuals and organizations who plotted or were involved in those violent acts, and to make recommendations to prevent such an attack from ever recurring,” said Virginia Rep. Gerry Connolly in a statement over the weekend.

It's uncertain whether the Senate would hold another vote on the commission and

whether any additional Republicans would support it. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., left open the possibility of a second attempt, saying after the vote that “the events of Jan. 6 will be investigated.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., opposes the commission, saying he believes the panel would be partisan even though it would be divided evenly between the two parties. McConnell's criticism came after Trump opposed it and called the legislation a “Democrat trap.”

Biden decries ‘horrific’ Tulsa massacre in emotional speech

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—An emotional President Joe Biden marked the 100th anniversary of the massacre that destroyed a thriving Black community in Tulsa, declaring Tuesday that he had “come to fill the silence” about one of the nation's darkest—and long suppressed—moments of racial violence.

“Some injustices are so heinous, so horrific, so grievous, they cannot be buried, no matter how hard people try,” Biden said. “Only with truth can come healing.”

Biden's commemoration of the deaths of hundreds of Black people killed by a white mob a century ago came amid the current national reckoning on racial justice.

“Just because history is silent, it does not mean that it did not take place,” Biden said. He said “hell was unleashed, literal hell was unleashed.” And

now, he said, the nation must come to grips with the subsequent sin of denial.

“We can't just choose what we want to know, and not what we should know,” said Biden. “I come here to help fill the silence, because in silence wounds deepen.”

After Biden left, some audience members spontaneously sang a famous civil rights march song, “Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around.”

The events Tuesday stood in stark contrast to then-President Donald Trump's trip to Tulsa last June, which was greeted by protests. Or the former president's decision, one year ago, to clear Lafayette Square near the White House of demonstrators who gathered to protest the death of George Floyd, a Black man, under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer.

In 1921—on May 31 and

June 1—a white mob, including some people hastily deputized by authorities, looted and burned Tulsa's Greenwood district, which was referred to as Black Wall Street.

As many as 300 Black Tulsans were killed, and thousands of survivors were forced for a time into internment camps overseen by the National Guard. Burned bricks and a fragment of a church basement are about all that survive today of the more than 30-block historically Black district.

On Tuesday, the president, joined by top Black advisers, met privately with three surviving members of the Greenwood community who lived through the violence, the White House said. Viola “Mother” Fletcher, Hughes “Uncle Red” Van Ellis and Lessie “Mother Randle” Benningfield Randle are all be-

tween the ages of 101 and 107.

Biden said their experience had been “a story seen in the mirror dimly.”

“But no longer,” the president told the survivors. “Now your story will be known in full view.”

Outside, Latasha Sanders, 33, of Tulsa, brought her five children and a nephew in hopes of spotting Biden.

“It's been 100 years, and this is the first we've heard from any U.S. president,” she said. “I brought my kids here today just so they could be a part of history and not just hear about it, and so they can teach generations to come.”

John Ondiek, another Tulsan in the crowd following Biden's speech on cell phones, said he was encouraged that “There aren't just Black people here. That tells me there's an awakening going on in this country.”

Texas GOP to revive voting bill, Democrats plot next move

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas Republicans pressed ahead with their push for tougher election laws Tuesday, vowing to ensure Democrats' weekend victory over one of the most restrictive voting measures in the country would only be temporary.

GOP Gov. Greg Abbott prepared to call lawmakers back for a special session to revive the voting measure that died when Democrats staged a dramatic walkout from the state Capitol just before the end of the legislative session Sunday night. Bolstered by GOP majorities in both the House and Senate, Abbott also was weighing whether to use the extra session to take up other top conservative priorities that had failed during the session.

That left Texas Democrats facing the aftermath of their last-minute maneuver and confronting how—or even whether—they can turn it into more than just a temporary roadblock in the GOP's nationwide pursuit to impose tighter voting laws across the U.S.

“There are consequences,” said state Sen. John Whitmire, one of Texas' longest-serving Democrats.

Democrats who pulled off the revolt in the state House of Representatives just before a midnight deadline Sunday did not leave indefi-

nately. Most were back on the House floor just 12 hours later for ceremonial business, and none are calling to boycott a special session.

They are instead betting their dramatic flight out of the Texas Capitol and to a Black church will make Republicans think twice about some provisions in the legislation—like banning early voting Sunday morning, when many Black worshippers go to the polls after services—and give them more say on the next elections bill.

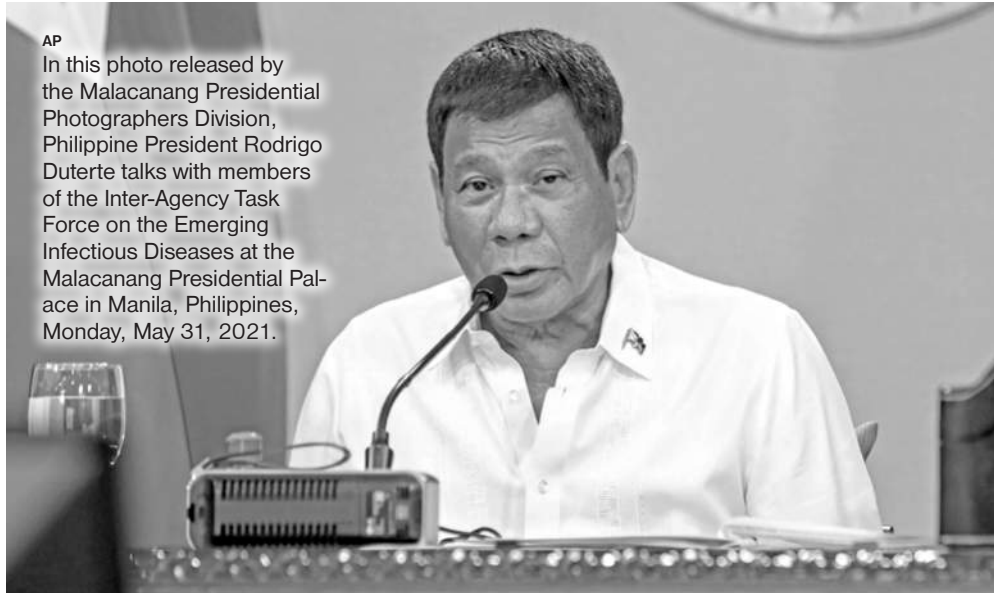
But bare-knuckled Republican governing is a way of life in the Texas Capitol and no concessions are so far promised. Abbott, meanwhile, has begun both punishing and taunting Democrats while he settles on deciding on when he will order them back to work.

He said Monday he would veto the part of the budget that funds legislators' salaries, a move that could impact not just Democrats but also other Capitol staff. He then tweeted a reminder of the last time Texas Democrats dramatically blocked a bill: when then-state Sen. Wendy Davis talked for more than 11 consecutive hours in 2013 to filibuster a sweeping anti-abortion measure, which Republicans immediately revived and passed in a special session.

Asia

DEADLY DRUG RAID DETAILS

Duterte against full disclosure



AP
In this photo released by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte talks with members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Malacanang Presidential Palace in Manila, Philippines, Monday, May 31, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has rejected full public disclosure of details of his administration's deadly anti-drug crackdown, citing national security.

President Rodrigo Duterte said in televised remarks Monday night that divulging confidential information like intelligence about suspects used by law enforcers for drug raids could undermine his administration's campaign against criminality. Duterte has long faced demands from human rights groups to open up police records about the drug killings for scrutiny and for him to agree to an international investigation, a call he has steadfastly rejected.

Duterte compared the anti-drug crackdown to the government's war against communist New People's Army guerrillas.

"This is a national security issue like the NPA," he said.

Duterte said people could inquire about general details of how drug raids were carried out and could even observe them from a safe distance. "But if you ask what prompted the police and the military to go into this kind of operation based on their reports and collated dossiers, you cannot intrude into that," he said, adding that he himself has limited knowledge

of the drug operations.

More than 6,000 mostly petty drug suspects have been killed and 289,000 others arrested since Duterte launched his massive campaign against illegal drugs after taking office in mid-2016, according to official statistics, which human rights groups suspect are vastly understated. The large number of killings has alarmed Western governments and human rights watchdogs and sparked an International Criminal Court examination of complaints of potential crimes against humanity.

Last week, the Department of Justice said it has been given access to a few dozen police investigations of police officers involved in anti-drug raids that turned deadly. Duterte's officials have argued that the country's justice system could address complaints of extrajudicial killings by law enforcers and that there is no need for international criminal inquiries.

"There are public documents that can be shown to the public at large," Duterte said, adding that confidential papers would be kept from the public.

The Supreme Court said in a 2018 resolution that details surrounding police operations against illegal drugs do not normally "involve state

secrets affecting national security" like those dealing with "rebellion, invasion, terrorism, espionage, infringement of our sovereignty or sovereign rights by foreign powers."

The court said it has a mandate to safeguard the people's constitutional right to information on pressing issues. "The undeniable fact that thousands of ordinary citizens have been killed, and continue to be killed, during police drug operations certainly is a matter of grave public concern," the court said.

Duterte acknowledged that the anti-drug crackdown has left many dead and warned that "many more will die." But he repeated that there was no government policy condoning extrajudicial killings and added that some of the killings of drug dealers were carried out by syndicates to eliminate potential government informants.

"My policemen and my army are trained to kill," he said, but added, "they are not allowed to kill a man kneeling down or with his back turned."

The tough-talking leader repeated his death threats to drug lords preying on young Filipinos. "If I am there, I will really kill you. I don't care if there's TV around. I will really kill you," he said.

China reports human case of H10N3 bird flu, a possible first

BEIJING (AP)—A man in eastern China has contracted what might be the world's first human case of the H10N3 strain of bird flu, but the risk of large-scale spread is low, the government said Tuesday.

The 41-year-old man in Jiangsu province, northwest of Shanghai, was hospitalized April 28 and is in stable condition, the National Health Commission said on its website.

No human case of H10N3 has been reported elsewhere,

the commission said.

"This infection is an accidental cross-species transmission," its statement said. "The risk of large-scale transmission is low."

The news comes amid heightened awareness of the threat of emerging diseases as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to claim lives around the world.

But unlike with coronaviruses, there are global influenza surveillance systems that watch for human cases of bird

flu, since a strain named H5N1 cropped up in the late 1990s in Hong Kong's crowded live-poultry markets.

Between 2013 and 2017, another bird flu named H7N9 infected more than 1,500 people in China through close contact with infected chickens.

With that history, authorities aren't surprised to see occasional human cases of various bird flu strains and they monitor closely for any signs one is spreading between people.

World

Netanyahu: Israel would risk 'friction' with US over Iran

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday he's prepared to risk tension with the U.S. if that is what it takes to neutralize Iran's nuclear capabilities.

The embattled premier, whose political future is in question just 11 days out from a bruising war, said Israel's biggest threat remains the possibility of a nuclear-armed Iran. He said Israel is prepared to prevent that from happening even if the United States and other nations succeed in reinstating the 2015 Iran nuclear accord.

"If we have to choose, I hope it doesn't happen, between friction with our great friend the United States and eliminating the existential threat — eliminating the existential threat" wins, Netanyahu said.

He spoke at a ceremony for David Barnea, the new chief of Israel's Mossad spy agency. Iran has accused Israel of being behind a number of attacks killing Iranian

nuclear scientists or sabotaging Iranian nuclear facilities.

More talks on the subject were expected this week when Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz travels to Washington. He's slated to meet with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin and U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan about Iran and stability in the region.

Netanyahu's comments come amid ongoing talks in Vienna between nations seeking to update and reinstate the 2015 agreement, in line with President Joe Biden's campaign promise. His predecessor, Republican President Donald Trump, pulled the U.S. out of the accord in 2018 and imposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

The deal places curbs on Iranian nuclear activities in exchange for relief from crippling economic sanctions.

Netanyahu staunchly opposes the agreement, arguing that it does not have enough safeguards to prevent Iran from developing

nuclear weapons.

Israel also says the deal must address Iran's support for militant groups, its military actions across the region and its development of long-range missiles capable of striking Israel.

Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only and says the nuclear deal should be reinstated without any changes.

Netanyahu spoke about Iran on Tuesday as his rivals in the Knesset huddled to try to form a coalition government that would end Netanyahu's 12-year rule.

The developments come amid a fragile truce between Israel and Hamas' militant rulers in the Gaza Strip after a brutal 11-day war that killed more than 250 people, most of them Palestinian.

Hamas, which opposes Israel's right to exist and is considered a terrorist group by Israel, the U.S. and other Western countries, receives millions of dollars of military aid from Iran each year.

Germany, UN to host conference on Libya in Berlin on June 23

BERLIN (AP)—Germany and the United Nations plan to host a conference on Libya this month in Berlin, a gathering that aims to bring together powers with interests in the North African country and its transitional government.

The agenda for the June 23 conference announced Tuesday includes discussions about preparations for elections in December and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Libya.

French President Emmanuel Macron met with Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah in Paris on Tuesday for bilateral talks focusing on ways to support a political transition and greater stability in the country.

"We must put an end to all foreign interference, which involves the withdrawal of

all foreign mercenaries' forces on Libyan soil: the Russians, the Turkish, the Syrian mercenaries and all the others," Macron said.

Dbeibah praised France for its support and vowed to focus "effective and intense action" to "organize free, transparent and fair elections" at the end of the year.

The Berlin meeting will take place at the level of foreign ministers and follows up on a January 2020 conference where leaders agreed to respect an arms embargo for Libya and to push the North African nation's warring parties to reach a full cease-fire. Germany has tried to act as an intermediary.

The countries that have been involved in the process include the five permanent members of the U.N. Se-

curity Council, along with Italy, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

The Berlin conference will mark the first time that the Libyan transitional government is represented at such an event, the German Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It will "take stock of progress" since the first Berlin gathering and discuss "the next steps needed for a sustainable stabilization," the ministry statement said.

"The main focus will be on preparations for the national elections scheduled for Dec. 24 and on the withdrawal of foreign troops and mercenaries from Libya as agreed in the cease-fire," the statement said. "In addition, steps towards the creation of unified Libyan security forces will be discussed."

Mexico boosts confirmed death toll by 4,272 to 227,840

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico announced Tuesday that a clinical review of past deaths has led officials to raise the country's confirmed COVID-19 death toll by 4,272, to a total of 227,840.

The adjustment was carried out by teams of doctors and is largely one of record keeping, because even government officials acknowledge Mexico's true pandem-

ic death toll is far, far higher.

Because the country of 126 million people does so little testing, many Mexicans have died at home or never got a test. So the government performs two kinds of adjustments—one by teams of doctors reviewing case files and another computerized search of death certificates for mentions of symptoms related to COVID-19.

The quicker, computerized analyses of excess deaths related to COVID-19 now stand at over 350,088, which gives Mexico one of the highest per capita rates in the world.

The vast majority of the re-classified deaths announced Tuesday—3,924 of the 4,272—occurred in Mexico's first wave of coronavirus infections between March and June 2020.

Environment

Master navigator Lino Olopai and the tale of the *tagafi*



IVA MAURIN
Ocean elder and master navigator Lino Olopai waves along the road by the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe, with environmental stewards from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, to welcome the CNMI Ocean Month of June.

Ocean elder and master navigator Lino Olopai, keynote speaker during the proclamation signing for the CNMI Ocean Month, stressed the need to maintain the balance between the environment and development, and later posed a question to the officials—how much development do we need?

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It was right after the Second World War, young Lino would go out fishing, swimming in a current, with his uncle. With them were an abundance of small fish, as well as colorful fish. One small cut on the arm or leg, and the smaller fish would come and nibble on it.

They would catch the *tagafi*—big red snappers that cannot just be caught with a spear gun because of their size. But, Lino's uncle taught him a technique on how to catch the *tagafi*, something which made him giggle underwater.

His uncle would intentionally throw up to him five fish at the same time, and being a kid, he would have trouble catching them and putting them on a fish line, and Lino would end up dragging the fish line. Every now and then, a *tagafi* would go in and swallow one of Lino's fish, and swim on.

They caught the *tagafi*. With a piece of loin cloth and a small rock tied to it, they lured the red snapper with a fish. Trapped, the *tagafi* eventually tired itself from swimming, tired from having to drag the rock.

To young Lino, being in the ocean felt like swimming in an aquarium. Traditional fishing was very compatible with the ocean. They would fish in one area on day, and then on the other side of the island the next day, to make sure that the fish supply recovers. Back then, the ocean was very rich.

Many decades after, and seeing how the CNMI has developed and changed, ocean elder and master navigator now Lino Olopai asks—how much development do we need?

“Whatever we do on land interrupts the ocean quality and the marine life. What are we going to do about it? We need that balance... This is such a sensitive issue, that if we fail to strike that balance, it's a big loss for you and me, for all of us.”

Olopai spoke before government leaders and ocean stewards in the community last Tuesday, June 1, to highlight the importance of the ocean, as the CNMI celebrates the Ocean Month of June.

“Our ocean resource, if we are not careful on how we develop our island and how we prepare with it, it's a big loss for all of us. We must do something about it. Do we need to continue to develop to where we are today, or [do we] slow it down and see if we can have that balance so that we can continue to have our ocean resources?” he stressed.

Over and over, he asked, “When are we going to learn?”

The CNMI ocean economy

At the proclamation of June as Ocean Month last Tuesday, it was stated that the CNMI ocean economy employs up to 8,300 people annually, roughly 40% to 50% of its local employment, and contributing to about \$922 million

toward the annual gross domestic product in the Commonwealth.

A 2019 study of the Eastern Research Group, valued the ecosystem services from coral reef and seagrass habitats in the CNMI at \$114.8 million annually.

“The CNMI is home to abundant marine biodiversity and ecosystems that provide valuable services supporting sustainable livelihoods, coastal protection, tourism opportunities, and cultural and recreational uses.”

“However, these resources are constantly threatened due to increasing pressures from land-based activities, such as erosion, vessel groundings, and increased runoff sedimentation and pollution from community, industry, and infrastructure.”

Tourism is the primary industry in the CNMI, and the ocean is a main part of it.

“Tourism is our only industry,” Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said. “This is what we offer our tourism. People pay thousands of dollars to leave their place to come to this beautiful island. A lot of times we don't know what we have until we lose it. We don't want to reach that.”

Torres then stressed the need to pass on ocean knowledge to the next generation.

“I just ask that we take care of our ocean as you have, teach our children what we can, learn how to protect and promote our culture. At the end of the day, this is what we have. It's ours. Each and every one of us has responsibilities, not just us here, but everyone else that lives and calls this island home.”

‘Balancing how we develop’

Addressing the new generation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ocean elder and master navigator Lino Olopai welcomes the Ocean Month of June waving along the road by the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe, with children from the Friends of the Mariana Trench. Olopai, who was the keynote speaker during the proclamation signing for the Ocean Month, shared stories of him as a young boy catching fish, reminiscing on the abundance of the CNMI oceans right after the second world war.

of environmental stewards in the government, mainly from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios posed a challenge toward a balanced development.

“I certainly appreciate this young generation of stewards who are working very hard. But, there are times when we impose government policies on you, and I'll take my small credits of blame. Because, sometimes, for expediency purposes, we need to continue to struggle and continue to work and challenge ourselves to balance how we develop.”

Palacios then shared a story of when he almost lost his job at the Division of Fish and Wildlife for refusing to sign a Coastal and Resources Management permit, where he questioned the capacity of a sewer treatment planning in Sadog Tasi.

“If you don't believe it is worth permitting a project, don't, but don't sit on it. Provide

the guidance to the developers. [You are] on the front line of stewardship of our oceans,” the lieutenant governor stressed.

“At the end of the day, it is absolutely correct that we are going to pass this to [the next] generations. I was in your shoes. And I hope that when you [get] to our age, you will look back and say I did the best I can to pass on to the next generation. The ocean is culture. Clean ocean is culture. Whether we like it or not, that's who we are. That is embedded in our identity.”

2021 June Ocean Month activity calendar

BECQ is continuing the celebration of the CNMI Ocean Month with a beach cleanup at Laolao Bay this Saturday, June 5, 8:30am. Everyone is encouraged to join in and volunteer. Cleaning supplies will be provided, as well as water. Just don't forget to bring your

reusable water bottle!

On June 8, Tuesday, World Oceans Day, the Division of Environmental Quality will also be announcing the winner of the Storm Drain Mural contest participated in by students, who had to paint messages that would raise awareness on the effects of littering to our ocean.

Moreover, the Division of Coastal and Resources Management, with the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, also has a social media contest where they're give away swag bags full of eco-friendly, reusable, and sustainable products. All you need to do is to upload a photo showing how you benefit from the ocean, tag CRM and MINA, and use the hashtags #CNMIOceanMonth, #TeamOcean, and #GoingCoastalCNMI.

For the full contest rule, check out goingcoastal_cnmi on instagram. Winners will be announced every Friday, the entire month of June.

Ocean Fairs will also be held on each of the three main islands of the CNMI. The Saipan Ocean Fair will be held at the Civic Center in Susupe on Saturday, June 12, from 9am to 3pm; at the Jones Beach-Fiesta Ground on Saturday, June 19, from 11am to 3pm; and at Tete-to Beach on Saturday, June 26, from 8am to 2pm.

The Ocean Fair is free and open to the public, and will feature educational booths, local arts and crafts, and of course, water activities such as swimming and water safety lessons, snorkeling, talaya lessons, canoe riding, stand up paddling, and more. For additional information about the Ocean Fair, contact Colleen Flores at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp or at 664-8300/16.

Life & Style

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Welcome (back) to the jungle: Guns N' Roses is playing an Atlantic City casino this year.

The iconic hard rock band has booked two dates at the Hard Rock casino Sept. 11 and 12 in the clearest sign yet that big-name entertainment is returning to the seaside gambling resort as it emerges from the coronavirus pandemic.

The band's current lineup

includes its biggest stars, lead singer Axl Rose and guitarist Slash. Opening the shows will be Mammoth WVH, the band led by Van Halen bassist Wolfgang Van Halen, son of the late guitar legend Eddie Van Halen.

The band says the Hard Rock shows will be the "most intimate" of their tour, which normally plays huge sports stadiums. The casino's Etes

A-list shows returning to Atlantic City with Guns N' Roses

Arena has about 6,000 seats.

"Without question, we believe that entertainment is ready to come back," said Joe Lupo, Hard Rock's president. "The artists and their management have been hungry for the past couple months as we waited for capacity restrictions to lift and vaccinations to increase. We're

looking to bring fans in here and make a statement."

Tickets go on sale Friday at noon, although fan club and other presales will begin before that.

Other big-name acts are due to play Atlantic City this summer and fall, some of which were rescheduled from last year when

the pandemic forced the casinos to close for 3 1/2 months, and to operate at reduced capacity even after they opened.

Those restrictions, since lifted, made it impossible to book A-list acts because only a small percentage of seats could be sold.

This year's scheduled shows include Kiss, Toby Keith, Dierks Bentley and Pitbull, all at Hard Rock; Phish on the beach; Michael Buble at Boardwalk Hall; Jerry Seinfeld at the Borgata, and the Beach Boys and Alice Cooper in separate shows at the Ocean casino.

'Elvis' has left the sign as vandals hit singer's birthplace

TUPELO, Miss. (AP) — Elvis Presley's birthplace in Mississippi is offering a \$1,000 reward to figure out who took the word "Elvis" off the landmark's sign.

The museum discovered the

first name taken from the "Elvis Presley Birthplace, Museum & Chapel" sign over the weekend. The word "Elvis" had been written as the rock 'n' roll pioneer's signature.

The museum in Tupelo isn't

sure exactly when the brick sign was damaged.

The entire sign was stolen three months ago and had just recently been replaced, WTVA-TV reported.

The singer's birthplace

also survived a tornado moving nearby in early May.

The site includes the restored two-room house built by Presley's family for \$180. He was born there in January 1935.

Hong Kong's Tiananmen museum shuts down amid investigation

HONG KONG (AP)—A Hong Kong museum commemorating China's deadly 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protests closed Wednesday three days after opening as the ruling Communist Party tries to stamp out the

last traces of public discussion of the event.

Hong Kong was the last place on Chinese soil where the party's attack on protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square was commemorated with candlelight vigils

and other events. But authorities have banned public ceremonies for the second year amid a campaign by Beijing to crush pro-democracy activism in the territory.

Organizers of the June 4 Museum said it closed af-

ter authorities investigated whether it had licenses to conduct public exhibitions. The Hong Kong Alliance of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China said it wanted to protect staff and visitors while the group sought legal advice.

Bob Dylan album returned 48 years late

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, Ohio (AP)—After nearly five decades of blowin' in the wind, a double Bob Dylan album finally has a direction home: A man living in San Francisco has mailed the vinyl back to an Ohio library 48 years after it was supposed to be returned.

Howard Simon recently sent the album along with a letter to Heights Libraries apologizing for his tardiness, according to a news release from the library system outside Cleveland.

Simon checked out Dylan's

"Self Portrait" album in 1973 as an eighth-grader at a University Heights middle school. Simon says he found it between two other Dylan albums in his personal vinyl collection.

"As a recent retiree, I am taking the opportunity to turn my attention to some of the many vignettes of life that by dint of career and family have been neglected these many years," Simon wrote. "I am returning with the letter an overdue item by my count, approximately 17,480 days overdue as of this writing."

His letter says the album cover is a little battered after traveling with him from University Heights to San Francisco with various stops in between, but the library says the records themselves remain in "great shape."

HEIGHTS LIBRARIES VIA AP

In this photo provided by Heights Libraries, Sara Phillips, a branch manager with Heights Libraries in Ohio, holds the Bob Dylan double album "Self Portrait" borrowed in 1973 by eighth-grader Howard Simon he returned recently 48 years overdue.



Husband reveals a frighteningly short fuse

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together 23 years. A few years ago, he told a friend of his he wasn't in love with or attracted to me. I'm the same 5-foot-6-inch, 135-pound woman he married. Recently, he has become increasingly short-tempered.

He gets angry at every driver on the road, he destroyed the vacuum when it stopped working and recently went after our 10-pound rescue dog for peeing when he yelled at him. I intervened when he started screaming that he would kill the dog. He then turned on me, yelling and breaking things.

I've never seen him this angry, and I am afraid it's escalating and he will physically harm the dog or me. Is it time to leave? He's no longer the man I married.

FEARFUL IN TEXAS

DEAR FEARFUL: What you are describing is not normal behavior. Contact your doctor about the drastic change in your husband's personality because it could be symptomatic of a serious illness. After that, the next time he presents a physical danger, call the police and ensure your safety by leaving. And if you do, take your rescue dog with you.

*

DEAR ABBY: I am about to start my new college experience, but I have a few concerns. I'm very picky, and I enjoy my alone time. I like to keep my space clean and tidy, and I'm afraid my roommate(s) will be slobes and I'll end up cleaning up

after them. I also need alone time so I can focus on myself to recoup after a long day. When I'm here at home I will usually do that in my bedroom. But if I have roommates, that will be difficult to do. I guess I'm asking how to find a happy medium so my roommates and I can be at peace at all times.

WANTS TO PREPARE

DEAR WANTS: Because you didn't specify how many roommates you will be sharing your space with, I will assume there are more than one—which may place you in the minority. Be open and honest with them about your desire for neatness and tidiness. They may not be as particular as you are, but it will provide you the opportunity to live with different kinds of people. As to the peace and quiet you crave, if adapting to each other's schedules isn't possible, consider heading to the library to find the peace and quiet you need. I wish you luck.

DEAR ABBY: I am retired, so I have free time on my hands. Recently, while doing a favor for a neighbor couple, I was standing on their porch when a board broke and one of my legs went through up to my thigh. They expressed concern at the time, and I told them I thought I was OK.

The next day, my knee and upper thigh were swollen and bruised. My leg is improving each day, and for that I'm thankful. This happened more than two weeks ago, and I have not gotten a phone call or anything else from these neighbors.

NEW YORK

(AP)—Kelly Osbourne is opening up about her battles with drug and alcohol addiction, stopping by "Red Table Talk" to discuss getting hooked as a teen and relapsing after the pandemic.



Osbourne

PDT/noon EDT.

Osbourne also told the hosts—Jada Pinkett Smith, her daughter, Willow Smith; and her mother, Adrienne Banfield-Norris—about the origins of her addictions.

Her first opiate-based drug addiction was with Vicodin which was prescribed to her after an operation to remove her tonsils when she was 13, sending her on a life-long battle. "That was all I needed," she said sadly.

Osbourne said the drug silenced her insecurities. "It felt like life gave me a hug." Pinkett Smith responded wryly: "Vicodin will do that." Osbourne added that Vicodin led to her misusing Percocet to eventually heroin "because it was cheaper."

Osbourne has discussed her drug and alcohol battles before in several interviews, her 2017 memoir and on podcasts like Dax Shepard's "Armchair Expert."

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Have people really gotten that insensitive, or am I making a big deal out of nothing?

OLD SCHOOL IN GEORGIA

DEAR OLD SCHOOL: No, you are not making a big deal out of nothing. And yes, some people have become that insensitive. The reason for your neighbors' silence may be lack of empathy, or it could be fear of a lawsuit. Or they may have thought it was unnecessary to check further because you said you were OK.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

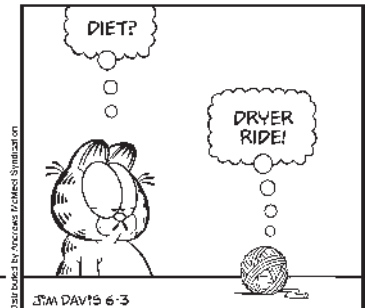
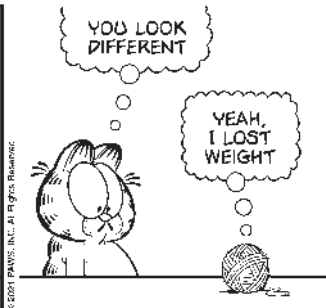
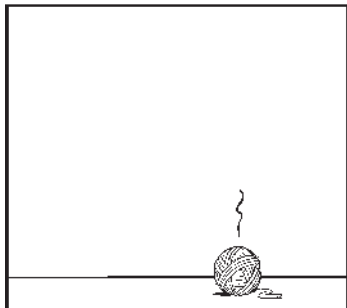
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



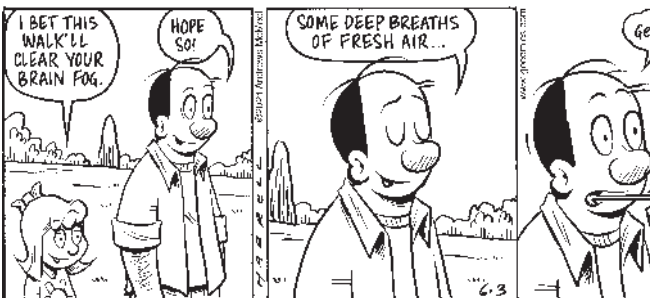
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



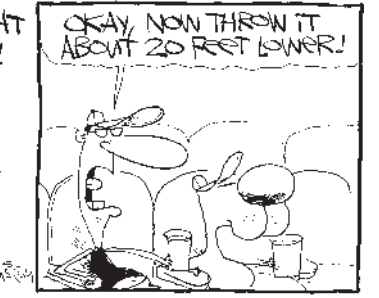
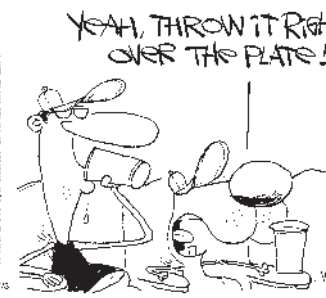
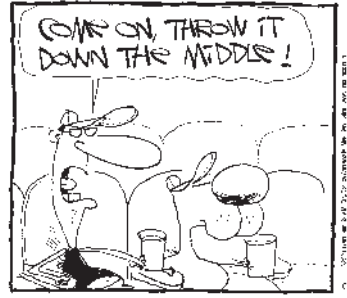
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

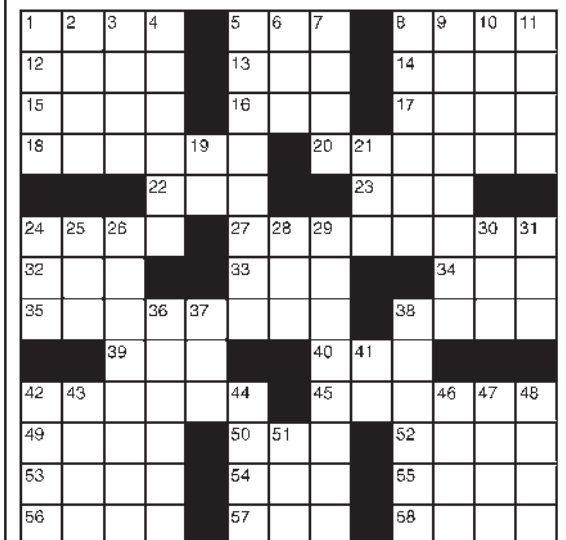
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ms. McEntire
5 Indian lentil dish
8 Scored 100 on
12 Historic periods
13 Brit. record label
14 Sitarist Shankar
15 Firsties
16 Use a straw
17 2004 on a corner-stone
18 Mouse sound
20 Fit for farming
22 Map lines (Abbr.)
23 Dos preceptor
24 Watch chains
27 Receding seas
32 College URL ender
33 Casual shirt
34 "— Were a Boy" (song by Beyoncé)
- DOWN**
- 1 Cincinnati team
2 "ER" actor
3 Hindu title of respect
4 Size up
5 Office accessories
6 Paris pal
7 "Break My Heart" singer
8 Designer Giorgio
9 Thailand's neighbor
10 Wicked
11 Jackknife, for one
19 @
21 Trench
24 Nourished
25 Poem of praise
26 Greyhound excursions
28 Spell-off
29 Places for alarm clocks
30 D followers
31 Bro's sib
36 Christie sleuth
37 Connections
38 Forbidden acts
41 Downing Street VIP
42 Rim
43 Maja painter
44 Snitch
46 Pakistan's language
47 Nobel Prize subj.
48 Unlit
51 "The Matrix" character

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-3



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rafael Nadal, 35; Anderson Cooper, 54; James Purefoy, 57; Deniece Williams, 71.

Happy Birthday: Push hard for perfection, originality and giving a unique twist to whatever you do or say. Turn this year into one to remember. Walk away from difficult people and situations and toward what brings you personal and professional happiness. Take responsibility for your life, relationship with others and ability to turn your dream into a reality. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 24, 30, 36, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be secretive about the changes you want to make; you'll get things done without interference. Don't lie if someone asks you a definitive question; just say it's a surprise and keep moving. Your determination will lead to a new opportunity. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take on only what you can do efficiently. It won't pay to put your reputation on the line to make someone else look good. Take the path that offers less aggravation; you'll enjoy what you do and will reach your destination on time. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Share facts. If you pass along information that doesn't come from a reliable source, you will jeopardize your reputation. Look for opportunities to improve your appearance, relationship with loved ones, and your health and emotional well-being. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's time to start anew. Embrace opportunities with enthusiasm and a healthy imagination. Be the one to inspire others. Take the lead. Bring

about positive change on a budget that is within your means. Take responsibility for your happiness. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let what others do ruin your day. Consider what's important to you and head in a direction that serves you well. A commitment to make a difference will encourage you to follow your heart and do something that matters. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Think less and do more. Take control of what's going on around you. Reach out to someone in need, and share your experience. What you do to make the world a better place will raise your profile and reputation. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Clear your head. Refuse to let others persuade you to get involved in something that isn't in your best interest. Focus on what's important to you and how you can use your skills to make a difference. Use your energy constructively. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Step up and take care of unfinished business. Clear time and space to make room for new beginnings. Now is not the time to dawdle or to dwell on the past. Pick up the pace and get back in the game. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick close to home and to the people you trust. Distance yourself from takers and those enticing you to do things you shouldn't. Discipline will pay off. Set goals, and don't stop until you are satisfied with what you achieve. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't jeopardize your health. Assess a situation and look for the best way to get things done with the least amount of risk. A change at home will make your life easier. An unexpected encounter will turn into an opportunity to advance. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your effort where it will do some good. A change at home will lift your spirits as long as you stick to a budget. Don't let your emotions mix with your intelligence. Do what's affordable and helpful. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your imagination is working overtime. Don't make any assumptions. Get the facts and mull over your options. Keep busy physically and you will find it easier to remain calm and find a suitable solution to whatever troubles you. ***

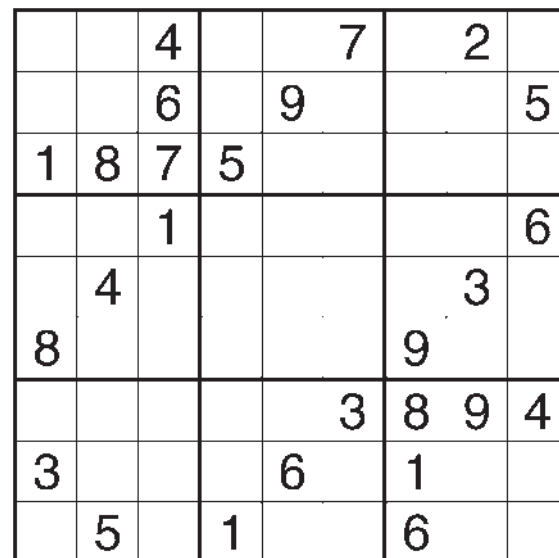
Birthday Baby: You are giving, opportunistic and ambitious. You are helpful and patient.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



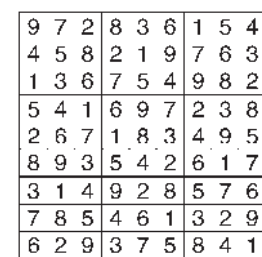
Difficulty Level ***

6/03

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level: ***

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TINTED MOISTURIZERS

Solution: 4 letters



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Almond, Apply, Beauty, Bright, Bronze, Caramel, Collagen, Color, Dewy, Flawless, Formula, Freckles, Fresh, Glow, Golden, Hydrate, Last, Lift, Lightweight, Lotion, Mist, Natural, Nourish, Oils, Peach, Pores, Protect, Pure, Radiant, Rated, Rose, Salon, Scent, Serum, Shade, Sheer, Skin, Smooth, SPF, Spray, Summer, Tanned, Teas, Texture, Toffee, Tone, Tube, Walnut, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Noise

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at

www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6430.

Nuggets beat Blazers in 2OT, Lillard scores 55



DENVER (AP)—On Damian Lillard's record-breaking night when he was hitting one shot after another from behind the arc and almost beyond belief, it was Michael Porter Jr. who quietly sank the biggest basket of all.

MPJ's 3-pointer from the left corner barely fluttered the net with 1:33 left in the second overtime and proved the game-winner as the Denver Nuggets squelched an epic comeback by the Portland Trail Blazers with a 147-140 win Tuesday night in Game 5 of their best-of-seven playoff series.

"That's what playoff basketball is," Porter said after the thriller that included a dozen lead changes and 11 ties, including long 3s by Lillard that forced overtime and the second OT.

Lillard's night included a franchise playoff record 55 points and NBA playoff record 12 3-pointers. He eclipsed the mark of 11 set by Golden State's Klay Thompson at Oklahoma City on May 28, 2016.

"It was the best playoff performance I've ever seen," Trail Blazers coach Terry Stotts said.

"At this point, all that matters is we can't lose another game in the series," Lillard shrugged.

And he, for one, isn't going to dwell on his big night and even bigger letdown.

"If I don't put it behind me, and hold onto it, it's going to get in the way of what we need to do in the next one," Lillard said.

Lillard scored 17 of Portland's 19 points in the two overtimes, but he didn't score again after his 12th 3-pointer in 17 attempts put the Blazers ahead 140-138 with 3:47 left.

And his teammates didn't score again, either.

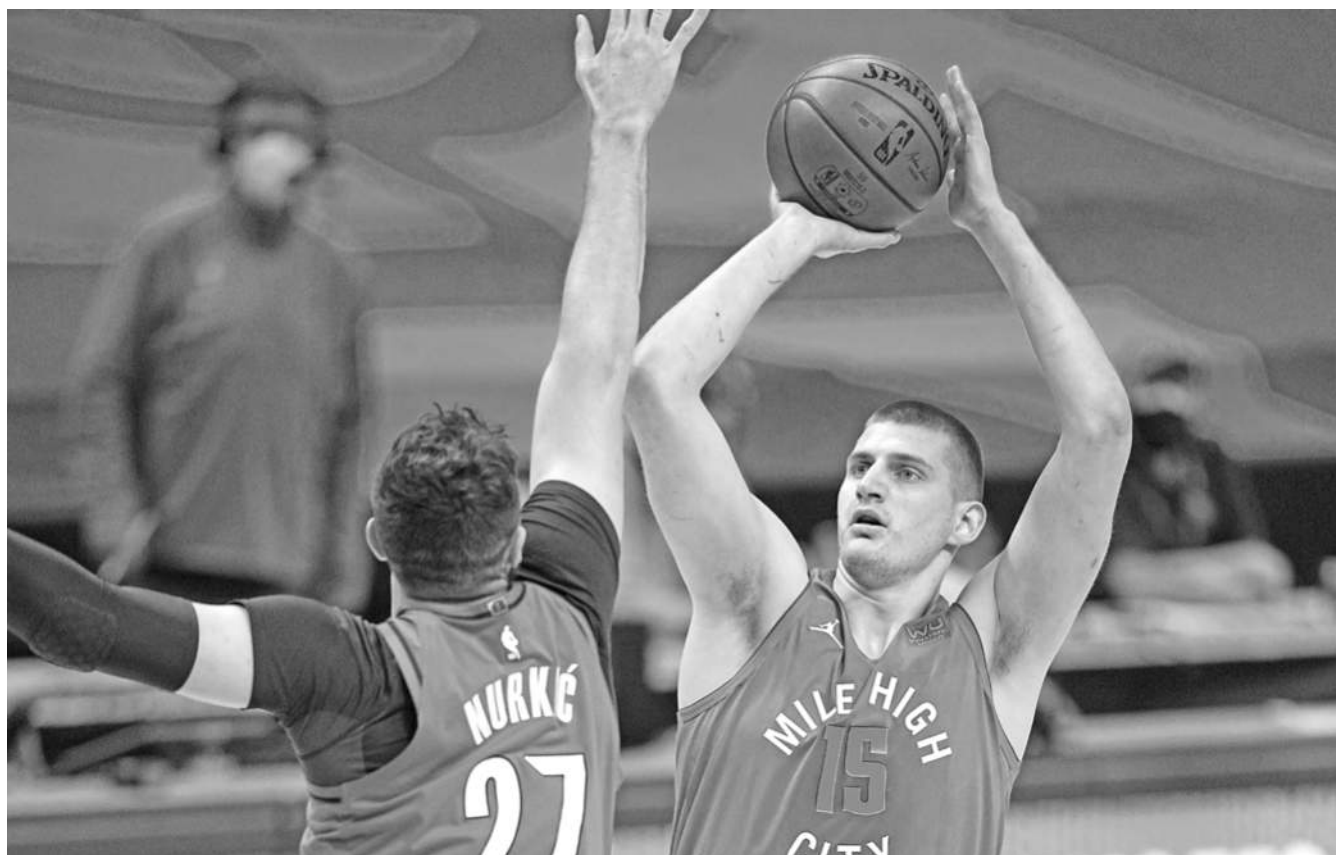
Nikola Jokic, who scored 38 points and came one assist shy of a triple-double, tied it at 140 with a layup and Porter broke the tie with a 3 from the left corner with 1:33 left off a sweet pass from Jokic.

The Blazers still were within three points — and Lillard's range—until a pair of costly mistakes sent them back to Portland for Game 6 on Thursday night trailing the Nuggets 3-2 in the best-of-seven series.

First, Robert Covington missed a dunk with 41 seconds left and then CJ McCollum stepped out of bounds with 9.1 seconds left and Lillard setting up for another 3.

"It's a shame we wasted one of the all-time best performances by not being more supportive of him," McCollum said.

Monte Morris, who scored 28 points off the bench, hit a pair of free throws with 8.8 sec-



AP
Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) shoots against Portland Trail Blazers center Jusuf Nurkic (27) during the first half of Game 5 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in Denver.

onds to seal it, and Shaq Harrison added two free throws with 3.8 seconds remaining.

Lillard's 3-pointer with three seconds left in regulation tied it at 121, capping a 22-point comeback. His 3 with 6.4 seconds left in the first overtime tied it at 135 and that capped Portland's comeback from a quick nine-point deficit in the extra period after Denver hit a trio of 3s.

"We won and lost that game so many times before ultimately winning it," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "... We never got down. Every time they threw a haymaker and got us down on the canvas, we got up and were able to pull it out in the end."

Porter, who finished with 26 points, said it wasn't hard to keep composed when Lillard kept hitting daggers to extend the game.

"It was 0-0. We knew there was only 5 minutes. We knew we couldn't hang our heads," Porter said. "It was a big game and we needed it."

When Jokic's precision pass found Porter in the left corner in the second overtime, "I said I've got to make up for that buzzer beater than Dame hit. I got to make up for it," Porter recounted.

He sure did, and by holding on, Denver improved to 187-1 in games since April 2, 2008, in which they led at any point by 22 or more, including the postseason.

Jokic, who added 11 rebounds and nine assists, was amazed by Lillard's performance.

"It was a pleasure to be on the court," he said, "just to witness that."

Nets 129, Celtics 109

In New York, Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and James Harden had just eight games

together in the regular season, few enough to wonder how good they could really be.

Five games against Boston provided some answers—and a chance to keep making up for all their lost time.

"We just don't want to take any of this time for granted," Irving said. "This doesn't happen too often kind of in our culture, in our history, where three of the best scorers to ever play the game are on one team."

Harden had 34 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his first postseason triple-double with Brooklyn, leading the Nets into the Eastern Conference semifinals with a 123-109 victory over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night in Game 5.

Irving scored 25 points and Durant had 24 for the Nets, who will face the Milwaukee Bucks in their first appearance in the second round since 2014. The No. 2-seeded Nets will host Game 1 against Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks on Saturday.

"We've got our work cut out for us," Durant said. "I mean, he's a two-time MVP, Defensive Player of the Year for a reason, so we're looking forward to the challenge."

Despite their limited time together during the regular season, the Nets' three superstars showed how potent they can be in this series, particularly when they combined for 104 points in Game 4.

"We weren't even worried about the playoff run yet, we were just happy to be on the court together," Harden said. "So it's great to get one series out of the way and like I said, we'll take tomorrow off and we'll recoup and get ready for a tough Milwaukee team."

Brooklyn was nowhere near as potent as Game 4, when it rang up 141 points. But a

little explosive stretch here and there was good enough to wrap it up.

The finishing one came with the Celtics trailing by just eight with under eight minutes to play. Durant then made a 3-pointer, Jayson Tatum turned it over and Irving nailed another 3 on the break, pushing it to 103-89 with 7:19 to play.

Evan Fournier scored but Harden answered with another 3 and Bruce Brown scored inside, an 11-2 burst in less than 90 seconds that broke it open at 108-91 midway through the fourth.

Tatum had 32 points and nine rebounds for the Celtics, who made the Eastern Conference finals last year but went quickly with Jaylen Brown and Kemba Walker unavailable.

"Jayson continued to make plays. We didn't do enough as a team. But he showed a lot of mettle this year," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said.

Fournier added 18 points and Romeo Langford had 17 starting in place of Walker, who missed his second straight game with a knee injury.

"It's been a lot. Injuries on top of injuries. Guys not being able to play together. A lot of personal stuff. It's life, things more important than basketball, but you've got to be professional," guard Marcus Smart said.

The Nets were eager to avoid a return to Boston after a fan threw a water bottle at Irving after Game 4, but the clincher didn't come easily.

The Celtics hung in the game, not letting the Nets build a double-digit lead until a 7-0 burst early in the second half made it 66-54. Boston recovered and trailed just 86-79 after Tatum made a jumper at the buzzer to end the third.

Suns 115, Lakers 85

In Phoenix, he Phoenix Suns made LeBron James look away.

Riding an orange wave of support in the desert, the Suns sent the four-time league MVP to the locker room early and took control of their first-round playoff series with a 115-85 dismantling of the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

The Suns lead 3-2, one win shy of becoming the first team in 15 tries to send James packing in the first round of the playoffs.

"There's nobody that's scared of the moment," Suns guard Devin Booker said. "We're a confident team."

The Suns won in Los Angeles on Sunday to tie the series and went right at the Anthony Davis-less Lakers in front of a revved-up crowd in Game 5.

Davis was out after suffering a groin injury in Game 4 and the Suns took advantage by attacking every chance they had. The Lakers put up little resistance, allowing Phoenix to score nearly at will while building a 30-point halftime lead—Los Angeles' largest halftime deficit in 25 years.

Booker scored 30 points after two quiet games, the Suns made 14 3-pointers and had just four turnovers against the NBA's regular-season defensive efficiency leader.

The only bad news: point guard Chris Paul took a shot to his injured right shoulder in the third quarter and did not return. "It scared me," said Paul, who added he should be all right. "It was just a very uncomfortable feeling, kind of helpless."

James scored 17 of his 24 points in the third quarter, but couldn't rally the listless Lakers. He sat at the end of the bench by himself in the fourth

quarter before heading to the locker room with about five minutes left.

Game 6 is Thursday in Los Angeles and the Lakers need to find some answers, quick.

"We got our ass kicked. It is that simple," James said after losing consecutive first-round games for the first time in his 15-year career. "They did whatever they wanted to win this game."

The series between one-time rivals has been shaped by injuries.

The Suns won the first game in the desert despite Paul injuring his shoulder. Los Angeles won the next two with Paul ailing, then Phoenix took Game 4 102-94 in Los Angeles after Davis went down with a groin injury.

The Suns took advantage of Davis' absence early in Game 5, repeatedly getting into the lane for shots or kickouts for open looks.

Booker was the biggest beneficiary.

He had been relatively quiet the previous two games — at least for one of the league's top scorers—scoring a combined 36 points on 11-of-24 shooting. Phoenix's young All-Star came out firing in the pivotal game of the series, scoring 18 points in the first quarter and hitting a corner jumper to put the Suns up 18 early in the second.

"I just wanted to be aggressive," Booker said. "In studying film, I think I passed up a lot of quick ones."

Booker wasn't the only one dropping shots.

The Suns had their way against Los Angeles' reach-and-swipe defense, leaving the Lakers flat footed with their quickness and rapid ball movement.

Phoenix made eight 3-pointers, 26 of 48 shots and had one turnover to lead 66-36 at halftime. It was the Lakers' largest halftime deficit since trailing Utah by 26 in 1998, according to SportRadar.

The Suns kept on the gas even as James became more aggressive in the third quarter, maintaining a 29-point lead heading before both teams emptied their benches in the fourth.

"We didn't play well on either side of the ball," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "We'll find out what we are made of and how bad we want this."

Yankees win on Frazier's homer with two outs in 11th

NEW YORK (AP)—Clint Frazier casually dropped his bat and stepped slowly across home plate, his eyes fixed to left field. This drive was leaving in a hurry, and he was determined to savor every bit of it.

"I wanted to really let that one sink in," he said.

Frazier hit a game-ending, two-run homer with two outs in the 11th inning after making a game-saving catch in the eighth, lifting the slumping New York Yankees over the rival Tampa Bay Rays 5-3 Tuesday night.

New York ended a four-game slide and beat Tampa Bay in the Bronx for the second time in 11 tries since the start of last season. The AL East-leading Rays had won 16 of 17 and are 4 1/2 games ahead of the third-place Yankees with two games left in this four-game series.

The righty-hitting Frazier turned on a slider from righthander Andrew Kittredge (5-1) and took his time out of the box, admiring the low, screaming liner that capped a night in which both teams came up short on several potential rallies.

One of those stalled efforts came in the eighth, when Frazier dove and needed every inch of his mitt to catch Joey Wendle's soft-hit liner to strand two — a clutch play for a right fielder who was essentially booed out of the Bronx in 2019 for his defensive shortcomings.

"I've worked really hard at my defense and tried to make it something that people can't talk about for the wrong reasons anymore," he said.

The Yankees offense has struggled so mightily, hitting coach Marcus Thames joked before the game he has bags under his eyes from a series of sleepless nights. With just six hits as a team, this was hardly a clean breakthrough, but New York also drew seven walks to eke out a tight win.

"Yeah, we needed that," manager Aaron Boone said.

After slowly jogging around the bases on his homer, Frazier tossed his helmet like a pull-up jumper as he neared teammates waiting at home plate, then joined the mob after his second career walk-off homer. His other was in 2017 in his sixth major league game.

Frazier's game-ending homer lifted his batting average to .185, and it was only his fifth homer.

"It's been a tough year for me, and to be able to do that meant a lot," he said. "It's a really cool feeling coming around third base and seeing all those guys jumping up and down ready to embrace you."

Luis Cessa (1-0) quickly



New York Yankees' Clint Frazier (77) celebrates with teammates as he reaches home plate after hitting a two-run home run during the 11th inning of the team's baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in New York.

worked through a perfect top of the 11th, the last of seven Yankees pitchers to combine on a three-hitter. The bullpen accounted for six hitless innings.

Both teams had chances in the late innings.

After Yankees reliever Lucas Luetge quickly blanked Tampa Bay in the top of the 10th, Kittredge left the bases loaded in the bottom of the inning by striking out Gary Sánchez.

Rays reliever Pete Fairbanks also stranded two runners in the ninth when slumping DJ LeMahieu stung a line drive right at second baseman Brandon Lowe, and teammate J.P. Feyerisen left two Yankees aboard in the eighth when pinch-hitter Giancarlo Stanton grounded out.

"Our relievers were tremendous," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "Our pitching all night was really good."

Tampa Bay had held New York to three or fewer runs in seven straight matchups and won nine straight against division foes. The Rays drew six walks but couldn't finish off any rallies in the late innings.

"We did a good job of getting guys on base and taking our walks, but the big hit just really eluded us for whatever reason," Cash said.

Tampa Bay ace Tyler Glasnow covered seven innings and was pulled from a 3-all game after throwing 100 pitches. He struck out eight and allowed four hits and two walks — including a bases-loaded free pass to Aaron Judge in the third. Glasnow also threw a wild pitch that allowed LeMahieu to score from third base.

Austin Meadows and Kevin Kiermaier homered off Yankees starter Domingo Germán during a back-and-forth first half of the game. Miguel Andújar connected for New York, one day after hitting his first homer of the season.

Meadows improved to 5

for 9 with four homers against Germán with his two-run homer in the first inning.

Orioles 7, Twins 4

In Baltimore, Cedric Mullins got two hits, scored two runs and made a sensational catch in center field, helping the Orioles snap their 14-game losing streak with a victory over the Twins.

Pedro Severino and Maikel Franco both homered for the Orioles, who also ended a 16-game head-to-head skid against Minnesota. Baltimore's Bruce Zimmermann (3-3) allowed two runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings, striking out a career-high seven.

Michael Pineda (3-3) allowed five runs and seven hits in three innings.

Cubs 4, Padres 3

In Chicago, Patrick Wisdom hit his third homer in two games, Willson Contreras also went deep and the surging Chicago Cubs beat San Diego after Padres star Fernando Tatis Jr. left with an injury.

Tatis exited because of right oblique tightness. He hit a fly to left field in the sixth inning and was replaced at shortstop in the bottom half by Ha-Seong Kim.

The NL Central-leading Cubs won for the eighth time in nine games and kept up their strong play coming off a 19-8 record in May.

Wisdom, who homered twice in Monday's win, and Contreras each hit a long two-run drive against Ryan Weathers (2-2).

Kyle Hendricks (6-4) got the victory.

Phillies 17, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Odúbel Herrera and Andrew McCutchen each hit two of Philadelphia's seven home runs and the Phillies pummeled the Reds.

Matt Joyce capped the rout with a grand slam in the ninth off Reds infielder Alex Blandino, who was on the mound

to help spare the bullpen.

Aaron Nola (4-4) allowed three runs through five innings and induced double-play grounders to end the second, third and fourth. His fifth-inning strikeout of Jesse Winker was the 1,000th of his career.

Sonny Gray (1-4) gave up four runs in 4 2/3 innings.

Nationals 11, Braves 6

In Atlanta, Ryan Zimmerman and Juan Soto each hit a two-run homer and the Washington Nationals overcame Stephen Strasburg's early exit to beat the Braves.

Soto had three hits, drove in four runs and scored four times to lead Washington's 14-hit outburst.

The Nationals snapped their five-game losing streak even though Strasburg lasted only 1 1/3 innings. The right-hander left the game after William Contreras' liner hit his left arm near his glove. Strasburg's glove appeared to absorb at least some of the blow.

Acuña had three hits, including a two-run homer off Austin Voth (2-0) in the fifth.

Max Fried (2-3) took the loss.

Indians 6, White Sox 5

In Cleveland, AL MVP Jose Abreu grounded out with the bases loaded to blunt a ninth-inning rally against Cleveland closer James Karinchak, giving Shane Bieber and the Indians a win over the White Sox.

Bieber (6-3) allowed two earned runs in seven innings, striking out seven to beat the AL Central-leading White Sox for the second time this season.

Down 6-3, Chicago rallied in the ninth. Zack Collins and Nick Madrigal hit RBI singles off Karinchak and a walk loaded the bases for Abreu, who grounded out to shortstop.

Austin Hedges' two-run homer off Dylan Cease (3-2) landed on the porch in left field and gave the Indians a

5-3 lead in the fourth.

Tigers 10, Brewers 7

In Milwaukee, Eric Haase and Jonathan Schoop each hit two home runs, Miguel Cabrera had three RBI and the previously light-hitting Tigers beat the Brewers, ending Milwaukee's five-game winning streak.

Milwaukee's Kolten Wong and Tyrone Taylor also hit two homers apiece in a game that saw nine home runs.

Detroit batters, who entered Tuesday with the fewest runs in the AL scored six times in the second inning off left-hander Eric Lauer (1-2).

Derek Holland (1-1) got the win.

Astros 5, Red Sox 1

In Houston, Luis Garcia threw a career-high seven innings, Jose Altuve homered and the Astros earned their third straight victory.

Garcia (4-3) permitted one run and six hits, retiring 11 of 12 batters over one stretch. The right-hander struck out six and walked one in his fourth consecutive win.

Altuve led off the first with his eighth homer, a drive to left-center against Garrett Richards (4-4). It was Altuve's third leadoff homer this season.

Richards surrendered two runs and four hits in six innings. He has allowed three or fewer runs in each of his last four starts.

Blue Jays 5, Marlins 1

In Buffalo, N.Y. (AP) — Vladimir Guerrero Jr. keyed a career-best four-hit outing with his major league-leading 17th home run and the Blue Jays celebrated the return to their temporary Buffalo home with a 5-1 win over the Marlins.

The Blue Jays are unable to play in Toronto for a second straight season because of Canadian health restrictions due to COVID-19.

After opening the season

10-11 playing at their spring training site in Dunedin, Florida, the Blue Jays escaped the heat and humidity to return to Buffalo, where they went 17-9 last year and clinched their first playoff berth since 2016.

A year after fans weren't allowed to attend games at Sahlen Field, home to their Triple-A affiliate, the Blue Jays played before an announced crowd of 5,321.

Robbie Ray (3-2) allowed one run on six hits through six innings, and the nomadic Blue Jays picked up where they left off a year ago in their adopted home.

Royals 10, Pirates 5

In Kansas City, Mo., Andrew Benintendi hit a grand slam and drove in five runs to lead Kansas City over Pittsburgh.

Salvador Perez had two homers and three RBIs to help the Royals sweep the two-game series. Brady Singer (3-4) allowed five runs — four earned — and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Wil Crowe (0-4) gave up eight runs and eight hits in four-plus innings.

Rockies 3, Rangers 2, 11 innings

In Denver, Ryan McMahon scored on Brett Martin's wild pitch in the 11th inning and Colorado Rockies sent Texas to its 13th straight road loss.

McMahon started the inning on second base, moved to third on a groundout and raced home when Martin (0-2) bounced a pitch to Brendan Rodgers.

Texas has lost seven in a row overall.

Yonathan Daza had three hits for the Rockies and Mychal Givens (2-2) pitched the 11th to get the win.

Angels 8, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Anthony Rendon drove in five runs, Max Stassi returned from a concussion and hit an RBI double and the Angels beat San Francisco.

Rendon hit a two-run single in the third to end an 0-for-10 funk and a bases-loaded double during a five-run fourth. He singled again in the ninth.

Lefty Andrew Heaney (3-3) allowed one run on five hits over 6 1/3 innings to win back-to-back starts for the first time this year.

Los Angeles clobbered Alex Wood (5-3), who surrendered seven runs on four hits with four walks in 3 2/3 innings and lost his third straight start.

'Choked': Nadal's opponent flubs set points at French Open

PARIS (AP)—Winning a match against Rafael Nadal at the French Open is downright difficult, of course: He went into Tuesday with a 100-2 career record at the place.

Just taking a set off the guy is nearly impossible, too. So when Alexei Popyrin twice came within a point of doing so during their encounter at Court Philippe Chatrier on Day 3 of this year's tournament, the enormity of it all was just too much for the King of Clay's 21-year-old opponent.

"Choked," was Popyrin's self-assessment.

Nadal began his bid for a record-breaking 21st Grand Slam title—and 14th at the French Open, adding to a mark he keeps adding to, year after year—with a, yes, straight-set victory over Popyrin.

The 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (3) triumph increased Nadal's run to 26 consecutive sets in Paris, dating to the last two of the 2019 final that he won against Dominic Thiem. Nadal won all 21 sets he played across seven matches at the 2020 French Open, which was played in the autumnal chill of September-October after being postponed from its usual calendar spot because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I feel like I was a little bit scared to get injured, no? But that's past," Nadal said Tuesday. "This year ... everybody is much more comfortable."

Back to its usual May-June schedule, the tournament has

been held more under the sort of conditions Mallorca's Nadal enjoys — the temperature was around 80 degrees Fahrenheit (26 Celsius) on Tuesday under a sun-filled sky, although rain was in Wednesday's forecast—and he played rather well against Popyrin until a shaky patch in the third set.

Nadal trailed 5-2, and Popyrin was a point from ending the set streak while serving at 5-3, 40-30.

But Popyrin couldn't close the deal there, double-faulting to deuce. Then came another set point for the 63rd-ranked Australian at Ad-In, but he shanked a leaping overhead, nearly hitting Nadal with the ball several feet beyond the baseline.

Two wild forehand misses later, Popyrin had given away the game. And soon enough, the match belonged to Nadal, too.

"The moment got to my head a little bit. You know, taking a set off Nadal, especially in French Open, is not the easiest thing to do," Popyrin said.

And then, with a smile, he added: "The guy is solid. What can I say?"

Indeed, it's not as if Nadal was feeling any sort of pressure at that juncture of the match. His mindset, he said af-



terward, essentially amounted to: "So what if I dropped that set? I already was up by two to none."

"Match point is a different story," he said. "You lose the point, you're (done). You are back home. Here, you lose the set. OK. We are playing best-of-five. The other player needs to win two more sets to beat you, and I know I'm going to be there fighting for every

single point."

As good as Nadal is at Roland Garros, he is seeded only No. 3, because the French Open sticks strictly to the rankings to determine its seedings. That left him behind No. 2 Daniil Medvedev, a two-time Grand Slam finalist, and No. 1 Novak Djokovic, who owns 18 major titles.

Djokovic improved to 17-0 in first-round matches at Roland

Garros by beating Tennys Sandgren 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in just under two hours on Tuesday night.

Djokovic saved all six break points he faced and compiled a total of 33 winners in the last match of the clay-court tournament's first round.

The top-ranked woman, Ash Barty, played much earlier in the day — and it looked for a bit as if her stay in the draw would not last long.

Spain's Rafael Nadal serves to Australia's Alexei Popyrin during their first round match on day three of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris, France, Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Elsewhere, Petra Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion, pulled out of the tournament with an injured ankle, while No. 7 seed Andrey Rublev lost his opening match in five sets.

Dealing with a left hip problem, Barty struggled through a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 win against 70th-ranked American Bernarda Pera in her first match in Paris since winning the 2019 title.

Barty decided not to try to defend her title last year because of the coronavirus pandemic, choosing instead to remain home in Australia.

In the buildup to this French Open, she played 13 matches on clay, winning 11. But she was forced to retire in the quarterfinals in Rome in May because of an injury to her right arm, raising concerns about her condition ahead of the trip to Paris.

"I just keep fighting, I just keep trying," Barty said after improving her three-set match record to 12-2 this year.

SHIMIZU

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third set, taking the first set, 6-4, before losing the second 4-6. Finally, in the third set, he redeemed himself, 10-5.

Meanwhile, in the boys U10

singles, Quido Jambor landed first place with a win-loss record of 2-0. He first beat Eliza Culp, 5-3, 4-2, before moving on to best Seungwoo Lee, 4-2, 4-1.

Runner-up Lee won one match that day against Culp, taking a 4-2, 4-1 victory.

KURODA

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facing winds. "The hardest part was biking because today was really windy," he said.

Kuroda shared that he has been training for the triathlon for two years and his hard work really paid off.

"With running, I have been running for a long time. However, for biking and swimming,

I just started incorporating it into my life about two years before so I'd say I've been training for the triathlon for about two years," Kuroda said.

Other individuals who excelled in the male category during last weekend's triathlon were Daryll De Luna, Christian Villacrusis, Jared Inselmann, Nate Hawley, and Florence Antonio. Dynamic Trio and Tri To Compete also

topped the team competition.

De Luna topped the 19-under-division with a time of 3:53:18, followed by second place Eric David who finished at 4:07:15.

Meanwhile, Villacrusis prevailed in the 20-29 division being the sole competitor of the division with a time of 3:34:57.

Aside from being named the fastest overall finisher, Insel-

mann finished first in the 40-49 category with a time of 2:24:24, followed by Michiteru Mita at 2:51:58, while completing the Top 3 was Ronald Villafria who finished at 3:11:47.

In the 50-59 division, Hawley prevailed with a time of 2:49:12, followed by Tyce Mister at 2:51:42, and rounding up the Top 3 was Carl Rohinger at 3:09:39.

Antonio dominated the

place with an overall standing of 4-0 followed by third place David Kwon who held a standing of 3-2.

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association helped coordinate the 2021 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic.

60-and-up division with a time of 3:18:51, followed by Chong Nam Lee at 3:29:37. Completing the Top 3 was Manny Sitchon who came in at 3:31:57.

The Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon was named as such because it encompassed 1.5-km swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run, which adds up to 51.5 km. It was organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	35	21	.625	—
Boston	32	22	.593	2
New York	30	25	.545	4½
Toronto	28	25	.528	5½
Baltimore	18	37	.327	16½

Central Division

Chicago	33	22	.600	—
Cleveland	30	24	.556	2½
Kansas City	27	26	.509	5
Detroit	23	32	.418	10
Minnesota	22	32	.407	10½

West Division

Oakland	32	25	.561	—
Houston	30	24	.556	½
Seattle	28	28	.500	3½
Los Angeles	25	30	.455	6
Texas	22	34	.393	9½

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

New York	26	21	.553	—
Atlanta	25	27	.481	3½
Philadelphia	26	29	.473	4
Miami	24	29	.453	5
Washington	22	29	.431	6

Central Division

Chicago	31	23	.574	—
St. Louis	31	24	.564	½
Milwaukee	29	26	.527	2½
Cincinnati	24	29	.453	6½
Pittsburgh	20	34	.370	11

West Division

San Francisco	34	21	.618	—
San Diego	34	22	.607	½
Los Angeles	32	23	.582	2
Colorado	21	34	.382	13
Arizona	20	36	.357	14½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANOA

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finals seat.

Aside from its first loss against Shirley's, Kanoa beat Matansa Football Club, 4-0, before moving on to conquer Paire Football Club, 3-2, in the quarterfinals of the winner's bracket.

Shirley's coasted through the tournament before eventually losing to Kanoa in the finals. They bested TanHoldings, 4-0, before dominating FSC, 4-0. Shirley's later moved on to beat Kanoa to land the first finals seat.

Meanwhile, in the U10 division, Kanoa 1 took a contrasting route to victory by sweeping all their matches during



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanoa FC players pose for a photo after prevailing in the U8 division of the President's Cup last Saturday.

the double-elimination tournament last weekend.

Kanoa 1 first defeated Kanoa 2, 7-0, to advance to its match against Shirley's, 3-1.

Later, they faced Matansa in the semis where they took a 4-0 victory to gain the first finals seat.

Matansa, on the other hand, took the second finals seat



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Kanoa 1 player intercepts the ball during the U10 match of the President's Cup last Saturday.

by fighting their way out of the loser's bracket by beating Shirley's, 2-0.

Before losing to Kanoa 1,

the tourney's second place team had conquered TanHoldings, 1-0, to enter the semifinals of the winner's bracket.



**Nuggets beat
Blazers in 2OT,
Lillard scores 55**

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**'Choked': Nadal's
opponent flubs
set points at
French Open**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

20 THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

Kanoa takes U8, U10 championships



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kanoa 1 players poses for a photo after prevailing in the U10 division of the President's Cup last Saturday.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Kanoa FC prevailed in both the U8 and U10 divisions of the President's Cup last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In the U8 division, Kanoa took home the title after a 1-0 victory over Shirley's Football Club. Meanwhile, their sister

team, Kanoa 1, also prevailed over Shirley's FC, 5-1, in the U10 division.

Kanoa consisted of mem-

bers Khoen Alexander Codeen Torres, Keanu Pangelinan, Hayven Moteisou, Aaron Iglecias, Neia Dolana Tagabuel, Isaiah Sablan, Logan Propst, Jay Santos Jr., Xander George Binghit, and Jeffrey Isaac.

Kanoa 1's team members were Aldric John Antonio, Ronald James Manabat, Izaiah Tenorio, Donald Tagabuel, Aiden Cassidey Reyes, Damien Michael Concepcion,



Chance Payton Reyes, Juan Alfonso Magboo, and Jessalyn Isaac.

In the U8 double-elimination tournament, Kanoa prevailed by a come-from-behind win against Shirley's in the semifinals. After losing its semifinals match to Shirley's, 2-5, Kanoa fell to the loser's bracket where they faced and crushed FSC, 4-2, to land the second

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Kanoa FC player dribbles the ball during their U8 match of the President's Cup last Saturday.

Shimizu rules Bridge Capital Tennis Classic

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Cody Shimizu managed to land first place overall in the boys U16 singles category of the 2021 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic tournament that concluded last Sunday.

During the round-robin tournament last weekend, Shimizu tied with June Yu for first place with each holding a win-loss standing of 3-1. However, the deciding factor was the head-to-head battle between the two where Shimizu came out the victor.

In the fight to determine first place, Shimizu won the first set over Yu, 6-4, before losing the second set 2-6. Finally, in the super-tiebreaker third set, Shimizu outplayed Yu with a 10-6 victory.

The champion also won its match against Wataru Kadokura, 6-4, 6-2, and his match against Min Seoung Kim, 4-2, 5-3.

Shimizu's only loss of the

day was against Nason Wessel with the latter sweeping both sets, 4-6, 6-7 (5).

Runner-up Yu swept its match against Kadokura, taking a 5-4, 4-2 victory. He moved on to beat Wessel by a super-tiebreaker third set. Yu started off weak, losing 4-6, but he eventually gained momentum in the second set, 6-0, before ultimately beating his foe in the third set, 11-9.

In his final match against Kim, Yu edged out the competition 7-6 (1), 6-0.

Meanwhile, also tied for third was Kadokura and Wessel with win-loss standings of 2-2. Kadokura eventually beat Wessel in their match, 6-4, 6-2, to land Top 3.

Kadokura also defeated Kim last weekend, 6-2, 6-2.

Wessel, despite landing fourth place, was the only individual to best division champ Shimizu, 6-4, 7-6 (5). He also defeated Kim through a super-tiebreaker

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Kuroda bags Elite title in Taga 5150 Triathlon

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Shuji Kuroda took home the Elite division title in the male category during the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon last Saturday.

Kuroda, who won the 6th Saipan Aquathlon 5-kilometer run, 1-km swim, and 2.5-km run last Feb. 27 at Pau Pau Beach and has consistently gained first place in various athletics events, finished last weekend's triathlon in 2:27:49.

Following closely behind Kuroda at second place was 2019 Saipan Duathlon champion Charlie Sendin who finished with a time of 2:32:28.

Kuroda said one of his goals last Saturday was to at least beat Sendin who he looked up to for topping previous CNMI duathlons and triathlons.

"My goal was to beat Charlie who held first place [in an event] over a year before, I really wanted to beat him and I did it," he said.

Aside from friendly competition, Kuroda was motivated to partake in the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon this year in hopes of gaining his first win as a single runner.

"I'm happy, I came here three years before and since then it was one of my goals to get first place in a triathlon so I'm happy. This is the first time I ran individually. The first triathlon I did, I ran with a team," he said.

When asked about the struggle that stood out the most during the race, like a handful of his competitors, Kuroda said it had to be the bike portion because of the opposite

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Shuji Kuroda crossed the finish line during the Paupau Taga 5150 Triathlon last Saturday.

